

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Future...
Great expectations: New Year hopes and resolutions from some top people of 1983, and a 1984 calendar of world sport.

Perfect
Forever England: tiffin and tennis parties in Malaysia, land of Somerset Maugham.

Cat...
A day at the sales: Values offers a guide for bargain-hunters.

And run
Julie Davidson celebrates hogmanay by temporarily abandoning her Scottish home and fleeing to the Fens.



Brother...
Neil Kinnock reflects on the last lessons of George Orwell's 1984.

In law
Gavin Stamp looks at planning legislation and how different architects respond to the controls.

Best Austin Rover year since 1979

Austin Rover has produced 450,000 cars this year, 44 per cent of all cars made in Britain, recording its best performance since 1979. It has also produced more than 40 cars per man, against only six per man in 1979.

US to review terror tactics

The Pentagon investigation into the Beirut suicide bombing is likely to result in a global reappraisal of US military tactics, including a tougher response to terrorism.

Stunted children

A study commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security says that children of the long-term unemployed can suffer from stunted growth.

Gandhi debut

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, son of the Indian Prime Minister, strongly attacked the left when he delivered his first important speech at a party meeting in Calcutta.

Beach Boy dies

Dennis Wilson, drummer in the Beach Boys pop group, drowned while diving in a marina near Los Angeles. He was 39.

Breath-test call

A Conservative MP has called for the introduction of random breath tests to reduce death and injury on the roads.

Deafness risk

Young people are at serious risk of having impaired hearing in later life because of prolonged exposure to loud music, organisations for the deaf said.

Pound rises

The pound touched \$1.45 for the first time in 10 weeks, with the dollar weakening as expectations fell of a rise in American interest rates.

China's success

China has achieved its 1985 production targets two years early, it is reported.

Boycott applies

Geoffrey Boycott has applied to join the Yorkshire committee as a representative of Wakefield district. The man he will oppose, Dr John Turner, voted against Boycott's dismissal in October.

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US brushes aside Western pleas to stay in Unesco

By Our Foreign Staff

The Reagan Administration yesterday formally announced its intention to withdraw from the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) at the end of next year.

Claiming that "continued United States participation does not serve the interests of the United States", a State Department spokesman in Washington condemned the organization's anti-West bias, efforts to restrict press freedom, and wasteful management methods.

Mr Amadou Mahtar Mbow, Unesco's director-general, was notified formally of the US intention to withdraw on Wednesday, though the Administration's action had been anticipated for several weeks. Under the agency's rules, a country must give one year's notice of intention to leave.

The spokesman said the decision to withdraw was made by President Reagan on the recommendation of Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State. Mr Reagan had brushed aside last-minute appeals by France and West Germany to remain in Unesco to try to reform it from within.

Reading from a prepared statement, the spokesman said: "Mr Shultz's recommendation was based upon our experience that Unesco has extraneously politicized virtually every subject it deals with, has exhibited hostility towards the basic institutions of a free society, especially the free market and the free press, and has demonstrated unrestrained budgetary expansion."

The United States has been particularly angered by what it perceives as Unesco's bias against Israel and its current campaign to introduce a "new world information order", regarded as an attempt at international press censorship.

The US departure will be a serious financial blow to Unesco, which relies on the United States to contribute about one-quarter of its annual budget. Earlier this year, America had been the only member to vote against Unesco's 1984-85 budget, amounting to \$374m (about £250m).

American officials said the Administration would be prepared to reconsider its decision if Unesco took steps in the coming year to change its ways. It was emphasized that the United States regarded its departure as temporary and reserved the right to rejoin once reforms had been carried out.

Anxious the counter criticism that withdrawal could harm Unesco's many constructive activities, the State Department said the United States would continue to further international cooperation in education, science, culture and communications, either working with individuals or through the private sector.

At the United Nations in New York, the decision was met with regret and concern from

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, who hoped that a way could be found for the United States to remain a member of Unesco before the deadline was reached.

The UN leader said that, in his contacts with Mrs Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the US representative at the UN, he had emphasized the adverse effects withdrawal would have on the UN principle of universality of membership.

Diplomats said the Secretary-General's restrained tone meant he still left open the possibility that the United States could be persuaded to change its mind.

In Paris, Unesco officials said Mr Mbow was on holiday and they refused to comment publicly on the US decision but privately they admitted it was a threat to Unesco's future. One official said: "We hope that the US decision is really a sifting shot across our bows, giving us time to change direction."

The first challenge Mr Mbow must face is financial. A British official said: "The first thing he can do is to start to cut costs in Paris."

Western countries have long been critical of lavish spending in Paris; for example, the cost of the general conference of members' delegates this year is estimated to have been \$6.4m.

For some of the Third World representatives, "that is a chance to spend a few weeks in one of the world's most beautiful cities and all at somebody else's expense. Some

Continued on back page, col 1

Simple wedding ceremony for Princess Caroline



Married in Monte Carlo: Princess Caroline, flanked by her husband, Prince Philippe Junot, and her father, Prince Rainier, waving to well-wishers outside Monaco's royal palace yesterday.

Only family members and close friends attended the wedding. Princess Caroline, who will be 27 next month, wore a beige satin dress.

The 20-minute civil ceremony at the palace (Reuter reports). After the wedding, the Princess and her new husband, a 23-year-old Italian businessman, delighted a crowd of 1,000 as they emerged on to a palace balcony for a brief appearance.

The intimacy of yesterday's ceremony contrasted sharply with the pomp of Princess Caroline's first marriage to M Philippe Junot, a French businessman, in 1978, which ended in divorce after barely two years.

The Princess, who has reigned as Monaco's first lady since the death of her mother, Princess Grace, after a road accident last year, was given away by her father.

S Africans bomb Swapo HQ in Angola

Four South African aircraft have attacked the main headquarters of the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo), General Command Viljoen, the chief of the South African Defence Force, announced yesterday.

The attack on the Swapo base, situated near Lubango in south-western Angola, was carried out yesterday, the general said. It was not a heavy attack, but it was very accurate and all the aircraft returned safely to base.

General Viljoen told a press conference at the Defence Force's headquarters in Pretoria, that the base included a defence headquarters, a Swapo training centre, a political indoctrination centre, a logistics facility, and a workshop for repairing military vehicles.

It was not possible to estimate the number of casualties because the base was well dug in, but it might have held between 200 and 500 people at the time, he said. "I think we sent them a message, warned them that we know about the area, and are ready to attack again if necessary."

The official Angolan news agency ANGOP, monitored yesterday in Lisbon, claimed that Angolan artillery shot down three South African aircraft on bombing raids over southern Angola towns earlier this week in which many civilians were killed.

General Viljoen maintained that no South African war aircraft had been lost during the current operation which, he has now been disclosed, began on December 6. Its declared aim is to forestall the rainy season thrust by Swapo guerrillas into South Africa-ruled Namibia (South-West Africa).

The general did, however, acknowledge that during "a reconnaissance flight" near Cahama in central southern Angola, "South African fighter aircraft had come under fire from the latest Soviet-made, radar-guided ground-to-air missiles."

He produced the severed head of a Sam-9 missile which, he said, had lodged without detonating in the tail of an Impala reconnaissance aircraft.

General Viljoen said that so far nine South Africans, three whites, and six blacks, had been killed in the operation, and he put confirmed deaths among Swapo and its Cuban and Angolan allies at about 50.

Rising anger over latest shipment of UHT milk

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The dispute between Britain and its EEC partners over imports of UHT milk threatened yesterday to worsen as the Newhaven port health authority asked of prosecuting the inspectors and the Commission in Brussels angrily demanded explanations from the British Government.

A shipment of 22,000 litres arrived at Newhaven from Normandy yesterday morning, on board the Sealink ferry *Charmes*.

There seemed, however, every likelihood that it would suffer a fate similar to that of a previous consignment which, earlier this month, was allowed to travel as far as Salisbury, Wiltshire, before being declared unfit for human consumption because allegedly it contained too much water.

Last month, after much procrastination, the Government finally issued regulations that ostensibly would permit imports of UHT (long-life) and sterilized milk from the Continent for the first time. That was in defiance of a European Court ruling that a continued ban on the ground of health was illegal.

But the authorities' refusal since then to allow any Continental UHT milk to be sold in

this country has evidently convinced the Commission that Britain has no intention of paying anything more than lip service to the court's decision.

Mr Paul Dalsager, the EEC Agriculture Commissioner, has written to Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, demanding an explanation no later than the third week in January.

He wants to know why Britain is demanding two separate health certificates, one relating to the absence of disease in the cattle supplying the milk, and the other to its fitness for human consumption; in what precise respects the milk has failed to meet British Standards Institution require-

ments; and why the whole procedure takes so long.

Mr David Hamer, chief environmental health officer of Lewes District Council, which covers Newhaven, said yesterday that the testing procedures had his confidence.

"The public analyst was able to say that the last consignment of milk contained extraneous water," he said. "The new batch will remain in the harbour until we have carried out tests."

If it was also found to be below standard for consumption the authority would consider prosecuting under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Commenting last week on the refusal to allow the earlier consignment to be sold, French Dairy Farmers' Ltd, the importer, said that the difference of opinion was not about standards but about testing techniques. French analysts had tested samples of the same consignment using British methods and standards, and had obtained a satisfactory result.

UHT imports are opposed by the National Farmers' Union, the Milk Marketing Board, the Dairy Trade Federation, and the trade unions.

Soviet hint of 'change for better'

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Supreme Soviet (Russia's Parliament) yesterday condemned the Reagan Administration's "reckless and bellicose policies" but said Moscow would seek a "change for the better" in world affairs at next month's disarmament conference in Stockholm.

A resolution signed by President Andropov and passed on the final day of the two-day session in the Kremlin did not say whether Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, would attend the Stockholm conference. Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, has already said he will go.

Western diplomats believed, however, it was almost certain Mr Gromyko would attend the Stockholm conference in person, and said a meeting with Mr Shultz was highly probable.

Yesterday's statement, passed in Mr Andropov's absence, instructed the Soviet Government to "ensure the security of the Soviet Union and its allies" and to take steps "which, with due account for changing circumstances now taking place, would lead to a change for the better in the international situation".

Moscow has said it will retaliate for the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe. The statement said the deployments were part of America's desire to "upset the military equilibrium".

Observers noted that the statement contained no new initiatives, and said this was because Mr Andropov had provided no guidelines. Observers had expected Mr Gromyko to fill the gap at the Supreme Soviet but he did not.

President Andropov has been seriously ill. His absence has affected the functioning of Soviet government, although his policies are still being pushed through.

Yesterday's resolution was proposed by Mr Boris Ponomarev, a second-ranking figure in the leadership. Some Western observers ascribe considerable influence to him behind the scenes but there is little evidence of this.

Soldiering on, page 4

Alliance told to get ready for coalition

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen has used his new year message to the Social Democrats to warn his party and the Alliance to prepare to work in a coalition government after the next general election.

Dr Owen tells the SDP that if the economy recovers between now and the next election Mrs Margaret Thatcher will probably win it, but that if decline continues Britain will face a grim prospect, for by then North Sea oil revenue will be falling sharply.

In those circumstances, the SDP leader says, the Alliance must be ready to provide the clear leadership for which the country would yearn. "ready to create a credible, coherent, coalition government."

Dr Owen's admission of the likelihood of another Conservative win, given economic recovery, may surprise some in his party, if only because it is contained in the new year rallying call, which is traditionally upbeat.

The sentence in which it was contained, although appearing in the version of Dr Owen's message which was released by the SDP to the press, was removed from the version which was published in the *Social Democrat*, the party's newspaper.

Dr Owen himself, if it was learnt last night, removed it, but because it did not represent his view but because he wanted to develop it more fully in a newspaper article.

But Dr Owen is increasingly talking about the possibility of coalitions as he continues to resist pressure from the Liberals and within his own party for a merger between the two.

Dr Owen's and Mr David Steel's new year messages to their parties underlined starkly their differing visions of the future development of the Alliance.

Mr Steel, who said in his that the "Cabinet" had become a "lame duck" administration, and that Labour was totally unable to provide a credible alternative, refers throughout to the role of the Alliance rather than simply to that of his own party and calls on every Liberal and Social Democrat to pledge themselves to work more closely together.

Message texts, page 2

Embassy man shot dead

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

One member of the administrative staff of the Jordanian Embassy in Madrid was shot dead and another seriously injured yesterday by a waiting gunman as the two were leaving work in a car.

The gunman, in his twenties and of Arab appearance, escaped. Spanish police said they suspected he was a member of a dissident Palestinian faction.

Charity workers head honours poll

By Robin Young

There are four times more popular support for giving New Year Honours to charity workers than to groups whose members habitually figure in the lists - local government officials, senior civil servants and nationalized industry chairmen. This is revealed in a public opinion poll conducted by MORI for *The Sunday Times* and made available exclusively to *The Times*.

A sample of 1,035 adults interviewed in 55 constituency sampling points around Britain, on December 16 were asked whether they thought honours should or should not be

awarded to people in various categories.

Strongest support went to honouring charity workers, with 92 per cent in their favour. Only six respondents in a hundred thought charity should be its own reward.

On the other hand fewer than a fifth of respondents would make awards to nationalized industry chairmen, or trade union leaders. Three quarters of those polled were against such awards.

Scientists and doctors scored well with 85 per cent support, and awards to sports personalities were precisely twice as popular as those to former MPs and politicians.

A clear majority favoured honours to military leaders, even when there is no war on. Industrialists and businessmen were as popular recipients as entertainers, while public opinion divided almost equally for and against the idea of giving artists and musicians any encouragement.

The New Year Honours list will be published in full in *The Times* tomorrow.

Just over a third of respondents favoured honours to judges and lawyers, and even newspaper editors and journalists. Although opposition to

Simonstown spy couple found guilty

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, the former communications officer of the South African naval dockyard at Simonstown, and his wife, Ruth, were yesterday convicted in the Cape Supreme Court of high treason on charges of spying for the Soviet Union. High treason carries a maximum penalty of death by hanging.

It is expected that evidence in mitigation will be given today, after which the sentence may be passed, either today or tomorrow, by the Judge-President of the Cape, Mr Justice G. G. A. Munro.

The case against Commodore Gerhardt, the judge said, was that from 1962 until his arrest he had spied for the Soviet Union, transmitting military secrets and receiving payment.

Mrs Gerhardt had assisted her husband, acted as his courier and carried information on film to and from various places in Europe.

In his defence Commodore Gerhardt had claimed to have been spying for an unnamed power, not hostile to South Africa.

Mrs Gerhardt said she had acted as a courier for her husband, believing he was a counter-intelligence agent working for a friendly country. The judge dismissed both stories.

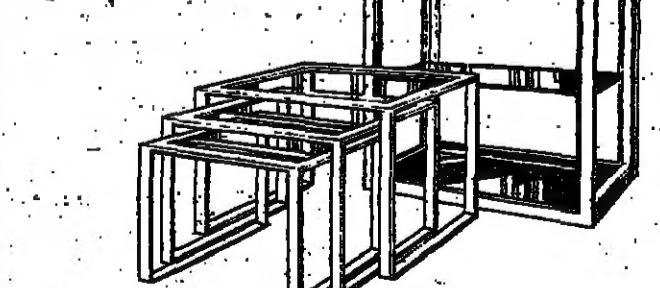
The case has aroused wide interest in the United States and Britain where there is speculation that the Gerhardts could have passed the Russians contingency plans for use of the Simonstown naval base in the event of world war.

It has also been suggested that they could have handed over information on British weapons and might even have contributed to British naval reverses during the Falklands War.

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Figure 1 is a schematic representation of the experimental design. It shows a sequence of events: 'Pretest', 'Training', and 'Test'. The 'Pretest' and 'Training' phases are connected by a double-headed arrow, and the 'Training' and 'Test' phases are connected by a double-headed arrow. The 'Pretest' and 'Test' phases are also connected by a double-headed arrow. The 'Pretest' and 'Training' phases are connected by a double-headed arrow, and the 'Training' and 'Test' phases are connected by a double-headed arrow. The 'Pretest' and 'Test' phases are also connected by a double-headed arrow.

Shadow of absent Andropov

Supreme Soviet soldiers on

From Richard Owen
Moscow

As the Supreme Soviet ended its two-day winter session yesterday with no sign of President Andropov, the Kremlin launched a concerted campaign to divert attention from his absence and demonstrate that he is in full control. The Supreme Soviet, Russia's Parliament, passed a resolution signed by Mr Andropov condemning the Reagan Administration but calling for an improvement in the international atmosphere. The Supreme Soviet also approved the 1984 budget, which provides for a rise in Soviet living standards, including a growth in real incomes of three and a half per cent.

There was no discussion of new laws governing labour discipline, however, and no keynote speech by a senior Kremlin leader on foreign policy. Observers said the somewhat perfunctory nature of the proceedings was due to Mr Andropov's absence.

In an attempt to give the impression that Mr Andropov remains firmly in charge the Soviet media yesterday gave only brief reports of the Supreme Soviet session, con-



His master's voice: Mr Boris Ponomarev delivering the foreign policy statement in President Andropov's absence.

centrating instead on factory meetings at which Mr Andropov was nominated as a candidate for next March's Government elections. Television reports, with portraits of Mr Andropov and constant invocations of his name to loud applause, seemed designed to dispel suspicions about his health, although for some

viewers they had the opposite effect.

Informed sources suggested yesterday that the significance of Mr Andropov's absence from the Central Committee plenum on Monday and Tuesday, and from the Supreme Soviet which followed, had been exaggerated, since the Soviet leader had effectively dominated both meetings without being present.

Mr Andropov's speech in absentia on Monday has become the touchstone for all party and Government discussions this week. In it Mr Andropov stringently criticized incompetence and inefficiency and called for higher productivity, more and better consumer goods and "the all round perfection of the entire mechanism of management."

Officials at the Supreme Soviet told correspondents that Mr Andropov was in hospital, and had suffered a temporary relapse after recovering from an unspecified illness. They said he was alert and following Government business closely. Diplomats were sceptical, however, noting that Mr Andropov had been absent for five months and had failed to reappear even when the Supreme Soviet session was delayed for one

month until the very end of the year. Mr Andropov is believed to have had kidney surgery, although officials denied this.

In speeches which referred repeatedly to Mr Andropov's Monday speech economic officials at the Supreme Soviet outlined a programme designed to yield an annual growth rate of four per cent, twice last year's rate, and a considerable improvement on the sluggish Brezhnev years.

Mr Vasily Garbuzov, the Finance Minister, said Soviet defences would be strengthened, and announced a defence budget of just over 17bn roubles (£15,450m at the official exchange rate).

Mr Nikolai Baibakov, the head of the State Planning Committee said oil output would go up by five million tonnes and gas output by 43bn cubic metres. Both oil and gas production have been high this year and will increase in 1984 with western Siberia providing over half of the total.

In his only personal contribution to the session President Andropov sent a message to deputies yesterday wishing them a happy new year. It seems unlikely, however, that he will deliver the traditional new year message on television.

US tightens security at home and abroad



Manning the barricades: Erecting security barriers on a pavement outside the White House.

Tough tactics to combat terror

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A fundamental reappraisal of American military tactics across the world is likely to emerge as a result of the critical Pentagon investigation into the Beirut suicide bombing, which killed 241 US soldiers on October 23.

President Reagan's reference to the new phenomenon of state-sponsored terrorism has surprised several commentators. As early as January, 1981, Mr Alexander Haig, Mr Reagan's first Secretary of State, cited international terrorism as America's principal foreign-policy concern. An accusing finger was frequently pointed at Libya.

For some time, the Pentagon has been working on ideas for quick-reaction anti-terrorist squad which could be deployed anywhere in the world, but progress has been slow. Most of the original impetus for such

an elite resulted from the bungled attempt to rescue the American hostages from the US Embassy in Tehran in 1980.

Praise is showered by the US military on Britain's Special Air Services, which, with its Israeli equivalent, is regarded as the best kind in the world. A similar group exists in America and almost certainly went ashore in Grenada before the invasion.

Its lack of success in gaining intelligence information was demonstrated by the failure of American troops to locate US students on the island for 36 hours after the main invasion. The under-estimation by the Americans of the extent of opposition was another indication of poor intelligence-gathering.

The US Army is severely stretched, with 40 per cent of

personnel abroad. After the Tehran debacle, a commission of inquiry under retired Admiral James Holloway made specific anti-terrorist recommendations not dissimilar to those from the present Pentagon team, headed by retired Admiral Robert Long. The Pentagon has therefore been considering the creation of a division of 10,000 men for "firemen" duties as in Grenada.

Attention is being focused on the inadequate intelligence operations in Beirut, cited by the Long commission. The White House blames the Carter Administration, which imposed strict curbs on the Central Intelligence Agency against spying on Americans abroad, carrying out assassinations and other anti-terrorist activities.

The intelligence operation in

Lebanon was especially criticised although it has regained some ground under the Reagan Administration.

The Long commission said it's most important message was that terrorism had become "tantamount to an act of war" and that the US military was ill-equipped to fight it.

It is probable that the White House will recast American cities in Lebanon as a priority, while reviewing tactics worldwide. The President, in hitting at tactical changes in Lebanon, acknowledged the inherent dangers of protecting Beirut Airport. "Airports just happen to be flat," he said.

Mr Reagan's spokesman yesterday insisted that US policy towards Lebanon will not be changed, despite the Long commission's assertion that there was an urgent need for reassessment.

Police call Walesa for questioning

Warsaw (Reuters) - Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader and Nobel peace prize winner, was questioned by Gdansk police yesterday about a meeting he held with underground Solidarity representatives which resulted in a call for public protests against food price increases. Mr Walesa went to police headquarters after finishing work as an electrician at the Lenin Shipyard.

His secret meeting with the banned union's clandestine National Coordinating Commission took place in November, after the Communist authorities proposed increases averaging between 10 per cent and 15 per cent.

The rises, due to take effect next month, have not yet been finalized because of stiff opposition from Poland's new official unions.

Mr Walesa and the underground leaders signed a statement saying it was Solidarity's "obligation to organize struggle in defence of people's interests". Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, said this month that Mr Walesa would be summoned by the internal security services to "discuss the meeting, which needs some clarification".

Mr Walesa was called in for questioning in May, when he last disclosed that he had met the underground commission. No action was taken against Mr Walesa, who described the new summons as routine harassment.

Both Mr Walesa and the coordinating commission have attacked the food price proposals, and the rising level of criticism from official sources in Poland has raised doubts about how quickly the prices will be implemented.

Sniping at West brings backlash

Why America quit Unesco

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration's decision to withdraw from the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization will have far-reaching implications both for Unesco itself and American relations with the whole United Nations system.

The decision to quit marks the culmination of a year-long study by the State Department of American participation in 96 international organizations.

Although the US has informed Secretary Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, that it is not considering leaving the world body, its decision to withdraw from Unesco at the end of next year is intended as a clear signal that the US intends to be more assertive in defence of its interests in UN organizations in the future.

For Unesco, the American decision will have the dramatic effect of depriving it of one-quarter of its annual budget from 1985.

The US has traditionally been the single largest contributor to Unesco. US officials believe it will be hard, if not impossible, for the organization to make up this shortfall, despite assertions earlier this year by Mr Amadou Mahtar Mbow, Unesco's director-general, that he would seek an international loan if the US pulled out.

The Reagan Administration decided to single out Unesco for punitive action because its activities were considered the most contentious among UN agencies and the most inimical to American interests.

The main complaints against Unesco were of undue politicization with many of its decisions showing a pro-Soviet or anti-Western bias, budget mismanagement, and attempts

to restrict the freedom of the press.

Two issues which particularly angered the US were the temporary barring of Israel from Unesco activities during the mid-1970s and current attempts to establish a "new world information and communications order".

The US and other Western nations regard the "new order" as a way for governments,

Harries, until recently the Australian Ambassador to Unesco, writing in *The New York Times* last week: "Basic features of good management, such as effective evaluation of programmes, comprehensive information about the budget, the effective allocation of resources, and adherence to proper procedures at meetings, are conspicuous by their absence."

Mr Harries was a leading contributor to a highly critical study of Unesco which the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think-tank, issued last October and which is said to have influenced the thinking of the Administration.

In this study Mr Harries wrote that "Unesco's activities are pretty constantly inimical to American interests and values". The organization was characterized by a "consistent and malignant anti-western bias".

Among other outspoken critics of Unesco who advocated an American withdrawal were the top State Department specialist dealing with international organizations, the American delegate to Unesco, conservative columnists, and, somewhat surprisingly, the liberal *New York Times* and *Washington Post* newspapers.

One of the strongest attacks on Unesco came in a leading article in *The New York Times*, a paper normally supportive of the ideals of the UN. Unesco, the paper claimed, had become "a babel of words notable for their mudslinging and dishonesty". It complained that communist delegates had overwhelmed the constructive purposes of Unesco's founders, so that it had become an "anti-Western rally".

Leading article, page 11

According to Mr Owen particularly those in the Soviet block and the Third World, to control what is written about their countries, both inside and outside their borders.

As the biggest contributor to Unesco's budget, the US has also been angered by what it regards as the appalling way the organization has been managed and administered.

Unlike other UN agencies, which have been held to zero growth, Mr Mbow has resisted efforts to curb spending. Earlier this year the US was the only country to vote against Unesco's 1984-85 budget of \$374 (£250m), which was more than 6 per cent higher than the previous year.

According to Mr Owen

Mr Mbow: Criticized by US as a big spender.

Amsterdam (Reuters) - A main suspect in the kidnapping of Mr Freddie Heineken, the brewery chairman, has surrendered.

A police reported yesterday. A police spokesman said Mr Frans Meijer, who is 30 and one of three leading suspects sought, went to police headquarters on Wednesday night and said he was sorry for his part in the kidnapping of Mr Heineken and his chauffeur outside the brewery offices on November 9. The two were rescued by police from an Amsterdam warehouse on November 30.

According to the police, Mr Meijer, who recently sent letters to an Amsterdam newspaper and the police saying he wanted to surrender.

Two men, arrested after the brewery paid a ransom of just over £7m two days before the Heineken was found, are still in custody.

Main Heineken kidnap suspect gives himself up

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Mr Nazih al-Bizri, a Sidon MP and former Minister of

Anti-Israel strike halts Sidon

Sidon (Reuters) - The port of Sidon went on strike yesterday in protest at the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the detention of about 15 Lebanese civilians by the Israeli Army.

Almost all shops and offices observed the strike call, while religious and civic leaders staged a sit-in at a city mosque to hear Muslim cleric denounce the 18-month-old Israeli presence.

The immediate cause of the strike was the arrest this week of two Muslim prayer leaders and the killing of three people in a skirmish with Israeli forces.

Mr Nazih al-Bizri, a Sidon MP and former Minister of

Shamir rules out PLO deal

The Israeli Government yesterday categorically ruled out the suggestion that last week's dramatic reconciliation between President Mubarak of Egypt and Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader might lead to a widening of the Middle East peace process to involve the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The outright rejection of Egyptian hints to this effect was made both by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr David Kimche, the influential Director-General of the Foreign Ministry. Significantly, it came during the first visit to Israel of a senior Israeli delegation since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon 18 months ago.

According to one Israeli official, the Egyptian delegation led by Mr Shafi Abdul-Hamid, and Assistant Secretary of State at the Foreign Ministry, put forward a possible "widening" of the peace process as its repeated explanation for last week's controversial meeting in Cairo.

"The point was made very strongly by Mr Shamir that there was no way that Mr Arafat

or his organization could be part of the process," the official told reporters. "They are not and will not be our partners in the peace process, either directly or indirectly."

The main purpose of Israel's unbending stand appeared to be to tell Washington that there was no chance of bringing the PLO even at half remove to the negotiating table with Israel.

Mr Shamir reiterated Israel's determination to stick rigidly to the line agreed at Camp David, and called on Egypt to revive the long-stalled talks on autonomy for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel's "regret and astonishment" at last week's Cairo rapprochement with Mr Arafat restated forcefully during more than seven hours of talks held yesterday in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. According to one source, nearly the whole time was taken up by Israel listing point by point its bitter complaints about the poor state of Israeli-Egyptian relations.

Yesterday's talks, reported to have been prompted by the

Grenada reprieves hit squad

St George's, Grenada (Reuters) - Four men sentenced to hang for attempting to assassinate the former Grenada Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, in June, 1980, have been pardoned by Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor-General.

Mr Bishop was at a rally, just outside St George's, sponsored by his People's Revolutionary Government when a bomb placed under the speaker's platform went off. He was uninjured but three girls were killed.

Boy PoWs to learn again

Geneva - More than 400 Iranian boys, the majority between 13 and 16, who are being held as PoWs at the Ramad Camp, north of Baghdad, are to be allowed to resume their education under the direction of teachers who are refugees in Western Europe (Alan McGregor writes).

Nation mourns

Harare (AP) - Flags around Zimbabwe will fly at half-mast today and tomorrow, declared days of national mourning for the 37 victims of the country's worst rail disaster. At least 214 people were injured when the train plunged down an embankment on Christmas Eve.

Sex ruling

Chicago (NYT) - A federal judge has found Eastern Airlines guilty of sex discrimination and ordered it to reinstate a pilot who had a sex change. The airline claimed Mr Kenneth Ulane, now Karen Ulane, had been a safety hazard on the flight deck.

Beauty bungler

Peking (Reuters) - A Shanghai youth who posed as a plastic surgeon seriously disfigured several women in medical operations. *The Liberation Army* newspaper reported that Yuan Lushan was detained after bunched attempts to give his "patients" Western-style eyes and noses.

Correction

The imbalance of trade between East and West Germany in 1983 will be about DM 500m in West Germany's favour, not DM 5,000m as stated yesterday.

Beach Boy drowns in marina dive

From Iver Davis
Los Angeles

Dennis Wilson, the drummer and founding member of one of America's most successful pop groups, the Beach Boys, drowned after diving off a quay at a marina near Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Wilson, aged 39, was one of three brothers who were the nucleus of the turbulent group that made "surf music" popular and gave southern California its own rock identity in the early 1960s.

A friend called the harbour patrol after Wilson failed to surface. A rescue diver found him lying face down in about 12ft of water.

Wilson had been diving into the murky water to retrieve "some old chairs and junk". Officials would not speculate on the cause of death, although one witness said Wilson may have surfaced near the quay and struck his head.

They changed their name to Beach Boys and rode the crest of the California surfing craze. Over the next two decades the group recorded 35 albums, 15 of them gold. They were best remembered for hits including "Surfer's Girl", "California Girls" and "Good Vibrations".

Obituary, page 12



Dennis Wilson: Drowned while "diving for junk".

Ozal raises prices and boosts economy

Mr Turgut Ozal, Turkey's conservative Prime Minister, yesterday unveiled his package of economic measures which includes a 50 per cent increase in the prices of spirits and cigarettes.

Turkey's lower-middle class, flatteringly dubbed the country's "central pillar" by the prime minister, had already been jolted out of its post-election euphoria by an earlier round of price rises. But, the business community had reason to rejoice over the contents of Mr Ozal's package, restrictive regulations governing foreign currency transactions were eased and commercial banks

From Rasit Gurdilic, Ankara were granted more freedom for foreign exchange deals.

The possession of foreign currencies ceases to be a punishable offence for ordinary Turks, who may now hold them in their bank accounts.

Mr Ozal also lifted restriction on imports, although a surtax is to be levied on the imports of luxury items. The proceeds are to be paid into the Social Housing Fund to help finance construction work seen as a way of reducing unemployment.

The package also includes measures designed to boost exports and to establish more realistic parities between the Turkish lira and foreign currencies, seen as a first step towards the realization of Mr Ozal's dream of a "convertible lira".

The Prime Minister described his economic package as "a bold step which nobody had dared take in the past 50 years". He said it was essential to cut the rate of inflation and revitalize the economy.

Mr Ekrem Pakdemirli, the Under-Secretary for Treasury and Foreign Trade and one of the closest Ozal aides said he believed the package was "an important step for the Westernization of the direction of Turkey's economy".

Acting with vigour after the inauguration of President Raul Alfonsín's civilian administration on December 10, the courts have had graves dug up in the Buenos Aires suburbs of Almirante Brown, Olivos and in the city of La Plata near by. Judging by the immediate

results of the investigations and growing calls for inquiries at other graveyards, it would seem the courts have only begun to scratch the surface on burials during the "dirty war" against terrorists.

The Mayor of Almirante Brown revealed on Tuesday that 14 of the 15 bodies exhumed in his city were without hands, evidently, cut off he said, to prevent identification.

He said three of the skulls exhumed had gunshot holes in them, while many skulls showed signs of having received severe beatings. He estimated that the cemetery would yield between 60 and 70 similarly-buried bodies.

The newly-elected mayor of the northern Buenos Aires suburb of San Isidro said on

Wednesday that 41 more unidentified bodies of Argentines "killed in confrontations with security forces" were concealed in mass graves in a local cemetery.

Television, which was heavily censored under military rule, has been replete with graphic reporting of the exhumations. News reports this week included footage of grave-yard workers packing large plastic bags with bones and taking them for identification.

Most bodies found so far in these earlier exhumations have been discovered in groups of about a half dozen in paupers' graves or beneath legal graves.

The exhumations are not the only sign of a new willingness to strip away the secrecy surrounding the "dirty war".

Argentina digs up its past

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Jackson ignores Reagan and goes to Syria

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington

The Rev Jesse Jackson, one of eight Democratic presidential candidates, left New York for Damascus yesterday to seek the release of a captured American airman despite misgivings expressed by President Reagan.

He claimed to have been assured that he would meet President Hafez al-Assad of Syria.

Navy Lieutenant Robert Goodman, has been held captive since his A6E Intruder was shot down over Lebanon on December 4.

Rev Jackson said his repeated attempts to reach President Reagan, who had given a warning that the trip might be counter-productive, were fruitless both yesterday and on Wednesday.

Lucky couple

Harare (AP) - Three months after Barbara Bulling won the top £30,000 prize in Zimbabwe's monthly state lottery, her husband, Steve, won the £50,000 prize in the state lottery's Christmas draw.

Beauty bungler

Peking (Reuters) - A Shanghai youth who posed as a plastic surgeon seriously disfigured several women in medical operations. *The Liberation Army* newspaper reported that Yuan Lushan was detained after bunched attempts to give his "patients" Western-style eyes and noses.

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Police inefficiency means Thornhill saboteurs may never be identified

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

The last three Zimbabwe Air Force officers involved in the Thornhill sabotage case are due to arrive in Britain this morning. The release of all the airmen implicated by Mr Robert Mugabe's Government is the closest thing to an admission that they were innocent of complicity - scapegoats in an investigation which went disastrously wrong.

The identity of whoever was responsible for placing explosives in a dozen fighter aircraft which blew up at Zimbabwe's main air force base on July 25, 1982, may never become public knowledge.

Speculation has turned on diverse theories - that the operation was carried out by embittered former Rhodesians, by South Africans, by members of the minority Zippa faction in the armed forces, even that it was executed by members of a radical black military group who saw an opportunity to destroy the last remaining section of the armed forces controlled by whites.

The evidence which might have proved the case one way or another has been lost, abandoned in an investigation by incompetent police officers who decided at an early stage, for reasons which remain unclear, that they had to prove a conspiracy by senior white officers and tortured convenient suspects until they made false confessions.

Evidence gathered by the Air Force board of inquiry, which was abandoned after the arrest of two of its members, could have proved crucial if followed up in the police investigation. It included threats of a bomb found at a spot where a hole had been cut in the security fence around Thornhill which was ignored by

forensic investigators. This and other aspects of the case, such as the behaviour of some ex-Zippa personnel at the base, remain unexplained.

The final phase of the 17-month saga started on the evening of August 31. The officers were back in their cells at Chikurubi prison, having experienced only brief elation at their acquittal that day by the High Court before being served with new detention orders.

The two most senior men, Air Vice-Marshal Hugh Slater and Air Commodore Philip Pile, both of whom had been projected as future commanders of the Air Force - were visited by intermediaries who offered them on behalf of the Government immediate freedom, provided they left Zimbabwe for Britain that night.

At first they refused, saying they would not go until their brother officers were released and the Government had guaranteed all pension payments owing to them. But after negotiations over the next week, involving government officials, diplomats of the British High Commission and lawyers, in which verbal assurances on both points were given, they flew out of Harare on September 9.

A few days later Wing Commander Peter Briscoe, the last of the "top three" to leave, was also flown to London-bound. In November Air Lieutenant Nigel Lewis-Walker, who was never brought to trial, was also allowed to leave. Finally, last week Wing Commander John Cox, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir were freed and given a week to clear up their affairs before leaving.

The new arrivals will dis-

cover that not all has gone smoothly for their colleagues in Britain. Air Vice-Marshal Slater, his wife and two children have been living with friends for more than three months, his only income being from social security payments. He still has not received any of the £180,000 he is owed in pension, but he has now been offered a job.

Air Commodore Pile is owed even more in pension and is still without a job. Wing Commander Briscoe left Britain for the United States last week, having failed to find work. Air Lieutenant Lewis-Walker is hoping to join the RAF but must wait a statutory period before he qualifies.

The officers have undergone personality changes as a result of their ordeal. During the months in detention, they and their families found strength through faith and came to feel strongly about other detainees, mainly blacks, whom they met in Chikurubi.

With the release of the last airmen, the affair can be expected to pass into history, which will please both the British and Zimbabwe Governments, which have been troubled by the strain it has imposed on their relations.

But the long-term effect has been on the Air Force itself, where the consequences have been little short of disastrous. The treatment of the officers has provoked a mass exodus of skilled administrative, flying and maintenance personnel, and senior officers are still resigning. The aircraft sabotaged at Thornhill will be replaced in the next eight months, but the Zimbabwe Air Force will never be the same.



Family favourites: Mrs Gandhi giving her son Rajiv a few political pointers at the Congress meeting in Calcutta

Rajiv Gandhi hammers the left

From Michael Hamlyn, Calcutta

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the son of the Indian Prime Minister, made his first important speech to a plenary session of the Indian Congress Party last night and revealed himself as a scourge of the left.

Although the Congress conference has been particularly gentle in its criticisms of the Communist-led Government of West Bengal, Mr Gandhi made no bones about directly accusing them of inefficiency and even peculation.

Mr Gandhi's speech was awaited eagerly by the conference delegates, who have been encouraged to think of him as tomorrow's star by a stunning publicity campaign round Calcutta, where the meeting is being held. They packed the indoor stadium to sit cross-legged on mattresses spread across the floor. Several thousand more filled the galleries.

His mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi, sat on a cushion on the rostrum, surrounded by cross-legged dignitaries of the party, and hardly looked at him while he spoke. At first she busied herself with papers on her desk, and after gazed at the audience thoughtfully.

Mr Gandhi, who is younger and better-looking than his photographs suggest, spoke gently and slowly in Hindi, with few gestures and a number of ironic lines that brought a laugh. He was cheered many times with cries of "Rajiv Gandhi Sindhud". As soon as he finished speaking, almost the entire hall emptied, leaving a vestigial audience for the rest of the speakers in the debate.

Mr Gandhi has been having a few verbal brushes with the Communist Party (Marxist) Chief Minister of West Bengal - of which Calcutta is the capital - since he arrived in the city on Monday. When he visited a highly disorganized and overcrowded exhibition on Tuesday, he was heard to observe that West Bengal could use some discipline.

The word he used, *anashthan*, was held to be somewhat unfortunate, as Mrs Gandhi's emergency used to be described as the *anashthan purba*, the "discipline Stage" of India's development.

He brought a riposte from Mr Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister, who referred patronizingly to him as "still an apprentice". Yesterday Mr Gandhi had his revenge, directing the main thrust of his speech at Mr Basu's Government.

He said that Mr Basu complained that not enough money was granted to West Bengal and that not enough industry was set there. Mr Gandhi declared that the money that the left-wing Government borrowed was not used, as in other states, to develop current projects but to fund previous borrowing. In any case the money was not spent on useful operations and was frittered away and even given to Communist officials.

Industrial licences had been granted to companies to come to West Bengal, Mr Gandhi added, but they would not come until labour relations and electricity supply could be sorted out. Of an installed capacity of 1840 megawatts, the state was

able only to generate 750 megawatts. "We seem to have plenty of light in here," he observed, "but there are plenty of dark places outside."

Earlier in the day Mrs Gandhi had kept the packed stadium quiet while outlining her political philosophy in a long statement of introduction to the opening of the actual plenary session. All that had happened earlier this week had been preparation for these two days.

She departed from her prepared text on a number of occasions to emphasize her commitment to socialism and the left-leaning way of doing things. She particularly emphasized her actions in the past leading up to the nationalization of the banks, on which issue she first split Congress. She insisted nationalization must go further.

"We did not nationalize the banks because we wanted to win elections," she said. "We had been trying to make them serve the people for years and years. We don't want them to break any rules now, but if the rules are obstructing them, then we must change the rules."

Mrs Gandhi explained the lack of progress towards a socialist society by saying that the crisis of development was basically due to the forces of the status quo. She added: "Delegates will remember those who wanted to take the country in a socialist direction were obstructed." She blamed the failure to overcome right-wing elements on the socialists who left Congress instead of staying in the party to help her fight.

China two years up on output targets

Peking (Reuters) - China has achieved its 1983 production targets two years early, Mr Song Ping, the chief state planning commissioner, reported yesterday.

Final results for this year in terms of gross value of agricultural and industrial production would show that China had already reached a target set for the end of the current five-year state plan (1981-85), Mr Song said.

Industrial growth was expected to accelerate to about 10 per cent this year from 7.7 per cent in 1982. Total retail sales would rise by 10 per cent.

Mr Song also raised China's estimated 1983 grain production to 20 million tonnes more than the 353.43 million produced in 1982.

The annual average growth rate in the first three years of the current five-year plan would be 7.2 per cent. This greatly exceeded the 4 per cent official target now viewed as too conservative and tipped to be raised for the next plan.

Mr Song added that China had reversed some of the previous worrying falls in state revenues and the 1983 budget would be basically balanced.

Both Western economists and official Chinese statements attribute China's economic success this year, following hard upon last year's record achievements, to a restructuring of the economy under the influence of Mr Deng Xiaoping. China's elder statesman. Both have also pointed out the shortcomings and problems inherent in that success.

An unquantifiable but large proportion of the growth of the past few years has been simply the result of an abused economy retooling its muscles on slack capacity.

An attempt to devolve more economic responsibility and introduce profit incentives in a system accustomed to rigid and stifling central control has released internal economic imbalances which are as yet unresolved.

Mr Song's speech mentioned friction between demand for state funds for key development projects and an insatiable appetite of localities for money for building projects, which increase the burden on China's limited infrastructure.

A problem not mentioned by him but of abiding concern to China's best economic brains, is the distorted price system.

Bonn faces 'hot spring' of discontent

German unions want hours cut

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

While thousands of British factories remained idle over the long Christmas close-down, West German industry has been working normally this week, with only one day off for Christmas.

But the question of how many hours a German worker should put in at his factory is fast becoming a vexed political issue. Both trade unions and employers are deeply divided over a proposal that has been widely touted as a remedy for West Germany's unusually high level of unemployment: a cut in the normal working week to 35 hours.

The Trade Union Federation sees this reduction from the 40-hour week as an immediate and effective step to create more jobs and bring down unemployment, which stands at more than two million.

Employers and the Government, however, say that such a change, without any corresponding loss of pay, would bankrupt many firms and is a recipe for yet more unemployment.

The 35-hour week is likely to be the main point of argument in the coming round of 1984 pay talks. Already both sides have dug in their heels.

Herr Ernst Breit, leader of the Trade Union Federation, has forecast a "hot spring" of protests if the Government does not respond to calls for a five-hour cut in the working week. He says workers have already paid in advance this year by a drop in real earnings of 3.5 per cent over the past three years.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl calls the proposal "absurd and stupid", and said just before Christmas that he would not be shaken by the threat of strikes. The German economy could not cope with a 35-hour week.



Herr Dräger: It would be 'irresponsible'.



Herr Geissler: A return to the class struggle.

yet, Herr Alfred Dräger, the Christian Democratic floor leader, said the demand was "irresponsible". It amounted to adding six weeks to each worker's holiday.

Employers say that German industry cannot afford to cut working time as this would push up costs and make German goods less competitive. It would also immediately take advantage of the drop in the export market. The Government employment bureau has estimated that the change would amount to a wage increase of 12.6 per cent for each worker.

But the trade unions, increasingly concerned about redundancies, are insisting on the change, pointing out that the working week has remained at 40 hours since 1967. IG Metall, the country's largest union, which negotiates on behalf of 3,800,000 workers in the steel and engineering industry, is taking the lead, as usual, and has threatened strikes in the spring.

The stricken steel industry, struggling to keep alive, is holding out firmly against the demand. It says costs would rise by 18 per cent, and this could be afforded only if the unions accepted no pay increase for the next seven years.

Experts are divided on how many new jobs the cuts would make. Estimates range from a mere 60,000 to around one million. The Trade Union Federation, even after allowing for higher productivity, puts the figure at around 1,400,000.

Politicians are particularly fearful lest the issue becomes too emotive and destroys the vaunted industrial harmony, the cornerstone on which West German prosperity has been built.

Herr Heiner Geissler, the Christian Democratic Party secretary, gave a warning recently of "them and us" thinking and a return to the class struggle. The trade unions themselves have welcomed suggestions that independent arbitrators look at the issue dispassionately.

The Government has responded to the proposal with the recently published offer of early retirement at 59. This, it believes, is more attractive to workers and economically sounder. It thinks that, in conjunction with more flexible working hours - which it also recommends - the offer will undermine support for the 35-hour week and so avert any unwelcome strikes.

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China jails two prelates for ordaining priests

The Chinese authorities have jailed two prelates in charge of the Paoing diocese, according to Vatican Radio.

Mr Joseph Fan Xueyan, the Bishop of Paoing, aged 76, was accused of an attack on a rival Austrian fan after a UEFA Cup clash here this month. Was given a 19-month prison sentence yesterday and fined about £660 for possessing weapons, including an anti-tank grenade.

A similar sentence was given to Mr Huo Pin Chang, his Vicar-General.

of the authorities' near obsession with providing the best in medical treatment. It stands 24 storeys high in a wealthy district of New York or Los Angeles than in the decaying part of the capital it overshadows. The first patients, including the wounded from the recent US-led invasion of Grenada, began to move in this year.

The 1,000-bed hospital's equipment includes a million-dollar body scan and a computerized administrative and records service. The facilities and attention here could hardly be bettered anywhere, according to Mr Adria Pasqueler, the visiting International Red Cross delegate-general.

The Salvador Allende primary school in Alameda, east of



Food fever: Bargain-hunters in central Tokyo jostling for the special delicacies needed to celebrate the Japanese New Year.

Basques in climate of violence before polls

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

The release in Madrid of two politicians accused of justifying terrorism, the shooting of an exiled Spanish Basque militant in France, and a handgrenade attack on a police outpost in Bilbao heightened pre-election turmoil in the Basque country yesterday.

Regional parliamentary elections are expected in the Basque country in February, and the police fear an escalation of violence as a prelude.

Señor Jon Idgoras and Señor Iñaki Ruiz de Pineda were arrested on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively after telling a Madrid press conference on Monday that attacks by the Basque separatist organization, ETA on policemen and soldiers could be considered as "legitimate".

On Wednesday night, a Madrid court set them free because of their immunity as members of the Basque Regional Parliament. Both are members of Herri Batasuna (People's Unity), a party generally considered as the legalized political front for ETA.

Also on Wednesday night, two men on a motor cycle fired several shots at the exiled ETA leader, Señor Mikel Goikoetxea Elorriaga, alias Txapela, as he got out of his car with his wife and two children in St-Jean-de-Luz in France.

Doctors later described his condition as "clinically dead". He was wanted in Spain in connexion with 23 ETA attacks including one that resulted in the death of a Spanish police woman.

An anonymous caller told a Bilbao newspaper a few hours after the shooting that the attack was carried out by the Antiterrorist Liberation Group (GAL).

While ETA sympathizers demonstrated against the GAL attack in St-Jean-de-Luz and in Renteria, near St Sebastian, a handgrenade was thrown at a guard post on a canal near Bilbao. It exploded far from the policemen on duty, causing no injuries.

The interview was given recently, the newspaper said, without saying where Naumov was or providing other details.

"Many soldiers take hash," he said, commenting on reports of widespread use of hashish and other drugs among Soviet troops. "The officers themselves offer the soldiers a shot or a sniff before the shooting begins."

"The hospitals are filled to overflowing, not only here in Afghanistan but also in Soviet Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan and other provinces. All of this is not well known. The army leadership keeps it secret."

Albanian onslaught: Commenting on the fourth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Albania accused its erstwhile ally of "fascist aggression, perfidy and treachery", in a dispatch by the state-run ATA news agency (AP reports).

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Miró buried in Catalan birthplace

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Joan Miró, the Catalan abstract painter, who died on Christmas Day, was buried yesterday in Barcelona's Montjuïc cemetery, in what was almost a state funeral.

The last rites were at the sea Gothic church for the funeral service. The city where Miró was born had declared three days of mourning.

The crowds were not only paying their respects to a great painter, but also honouring a Catalan remembered for never collaborating with the Franco regime. Instead, he lived quietly for many years in Majorca.

Miró's relatives agreed not to respect his wish for a private funeral, expressed 13 years before when the dictator was still alive.

Señor Jordi Pujol, the Catalan Chief Minister, convinced them that Miró, who like Picasso, sympathized with the Republican side during the Civil War, had, since 1975, identified himself with Catalonia, which had recovered democracy and self-rule.

Troops in Afghanistan 'on drugs'

Vienna (AP) - A Soviet soldier who deserted to join insurgents in Afghanistan alleged in an interview published yesterday that drug use was common and morale low among his former comrades.

The soldier, identified as Vladislav Naumov by the Austrian Kurier newspaper, also reportedly spoke of widespread anti-Soviet sentiment and was quoted as saying the true extent of Soviet casualties was being kept secret.

The interview was given recently, the newspaper said, without saying where Naumov was or providing other details.

"Many soldiers take hash," he said, commenting on reports of widespread use of hashish and other drugs among Soviet troops. "The officers themselves offer the soldiers a shot or a sniff before the shooting begins."

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Football fan had grenade

Milan (AFP) - An Inter Milan football supporter, arrested for an attack on a rival Austrian fan after a UEFA Cup clash here this month, was given a 19-month prison sentence yesterday and fined about £660 for possessing weapons, including an anti-tank grenade.

Franco Caravita was released on bail but will have to report to police headquarters three times a week. He may also face an attempted murder charge.

The weapons, found in Caravita's flat and car, included a .38 pistol, ammunition and a knife.

in an interview published in a Karachi newspaper on Wednesday, Mrs Zia said a court should consider a woman's testimony as equal to that of a man.

Under changes proposed by General Zia, two women would have to testify in order to counter-balance one male witness. Mrs Zia said, she would try to convince her husband of her argument.

Muslim committees have been preparing the law of evidence - a cornerstone of General Zia's plans for legal reforms - for the past two years, but its enactment was postponed several times this year on a number of grounds. Wide-spread opposition by educated women could force the military government to drop the proposal, observers thought.

Zia's wife says no to husband's legal reforms

Islamabad, (AFP) - The wife of General Mohamed Zia ul-Haq, the Pakistan leader, says she is against the legal reforms proposed by her husband which would enforce Islamic rules on court evidence offered by women.

in an interview published in a Karachi newspaper on Wednesday, Mrs Zia said a court should consider a woman's testimony as equal to that of a man.

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The old idea that the pursuit of academic excellence releases you from your obligations to help the economy... has to be forgotten," an Education Ministry official said. The concept of patriotic duty is fundamental to schooling and the 200,000 students in higher education are obliged to "repay" the state through work in isolated regions or abroad.

About 14,000 foreign students are in Cuba on free courses which, the Government emphasizes, are to train them in technical skills useful to their own countries and not guerrilla subversion, as is alleged by many Western governments.

The emphasis on manual labour is another striking

SPECTRUM

The Chalkhill council estate in Brent, once a model of good housing, is now a violent, rubbish-strewn hell.
John Witherow and Brian Harris spent 24 hours there.

A day in the life of Chalkhill



Dawn. The estate is deserted except for a few figures who walk down paths hunched against the cold. An old man comes up and offers directions. "This is a terrible place," he confides. "My wife and I want to move to Hemel Hempstead." It is a common yearning on Chalkhill.

We try the walkways. There are more than three miles of them, linking the buildings on three levels. The architects thought of them as pathways in the sky, but to residents they are narrow and murky, hiding places for the junkies, muggers or pranksters. Walls are sprayed with graffiti.

From the fourth floor we can see Wembley stadium, and in the distance the Post Office tower. Below us litter swirls in eddies between the buildings. Despite its reputation Chalkhill seems curiously sedate. The grass is neatly cut, the outside of the buildings clean, and the signs of vandalism not obvious.

We walk round a corner and find a door smashed. Next door someone has hung a sign: "Smile, God loves you".

8.30am. Our first mugging. We are looking at a Rastafarian mural of the Lion of Judah when there are shouts and the sound of breaking glass. By the time we arrive we find a man slumped against a wall and a tall figure disappearing into the gloom.

Hasmukh is shaking, holding a broken bottle in his hand. One or two heads pop out of doorways but they

soon disappear. Hasmukh points at a plastic bottle of orange squash on a trolley from which he has been delivering milk, sliced bread and cool drinks. "He tried to take this but I wouldn't let him. He hit me so I smashed the bottle against the wall. I know him. He tried to rob me three days ago. No, I don't tell police because he will come back and hit me again." Most crimes go unreported for fear of retribution.

Some people decline to give their second names and talk darkly of becoming "marked" if they complain of vandalism or intimidation.

9.15am. We meet Gwendoline waiting for one of the few lifts that work. She has lived there for 14 years and seen Chalkhill transformed from the feather in the council's cap to a stone in its boot. Gwendoline has plenty of horror stories of estate life. "I've had all sorts of things thrown at me. One bit of wood missed me by inches. I've had stones fired at me from catapults. Some time ago I came across a young man weeing against a wall. I said, 'What are you doing?' And do you know, dear, he just turned around and sprayed all over me."

"You get gangs of 30 or 40 rushing up and down the walkways. Two thirds of the people here are decent and courteous, whatever their colour or creed. But the rest... oh dear. They just don't care. We don't go out any more at night, dear. Just two doors from us an Asian man was attacked and there was a man knifed in the lift."

10.00am. We wander into one of half-a-dozen shops on the estate to buy some apples. Posters for latest films including *Angel Warriors* (It was her blood... now it's his war) and *Bronx Warriors 2* (they're back and out for blood) block the view of yams, sweet potatoes and sorrel. Jim, the owner, moved into videos to supplement meagre takings from vegetables. He says his most popular films are *Demented* and *First Blood*.

"Most of the people around here like violence - violence and horror", he says with a curious laugh. "But my videos aren't enough for them. They want films where they can see the axe going into the head in slow motion, huh, huh, huh". To deter burglars Jim sleeps in the back of his shop and boards up the windows at night. "This estate has become a drinkers' and junkies' paradise", he says, with a curious mixture of despair and pride that he should be living in such a hell-hole. "You've got some real Cadburys here, huh, huh, huh". As if on cue a youth with strange spiky hair lurches past the window muttering to himself.

Jim is keen to paint a gloomy picture of life on the estate. "You should call this the concrete jungle, because that's what it is. This place is a dump. The council slung in all the problem families, making one big problem. You never get the TV licence people coming. They came four years ago and they ain't been back. The kids gave them hell - threw bottles at them and that sort of thing."

"It's quiet now because no-one moves before midday. If it's raining they wait until one o'clock. After that anything can happen." We tell Jim of the attempted mugging. He nods knowingly and says: "That's nothing. You wait until tonight". We shift uneasily.

I know him. I don't tell police because he will come back and hit me again

11.30am. After breakfast at a Wimpy's we meet our first policeman. Acting Chief Superintendent Alan Standby, the man responsible for policing Chalkhill, is large and thoughtful and endlessly energetic. While residents are eager to portray the dark side of the estate, he is an optimist.

The situation, he says, has got better since the murder, that of Seema Devani, last year. The police raided several homes and found the proceeds of five robberies and 20 weapons, mostly knives. He produces a chart to show that while burglary is about average for Brent, the number of muggings are four or five times higher than for the rest of the borough. Last November he put in 40 undercover policemen to watch the estate covertly for two weekends. So good is the antennae for police on Chalkhill, however, that some of the policemen were quickly "rumbled".

They made 11 arrests, and also saw incidents that were never reported, such as the elderly Asian man being followed by about 15 youths who pushed and spat on him. Supt Standby has increased policing of the estate but he still gets complaints from both sides. "I went to a meeting where one man got up and demanded more policemen", he says. "No sooner had he sat down than another man got up and said he didn't want his children contaminated by talking to policemen."

He believes the real troublemakers are a small group of between 20 and 30 youths out of the 6,000 to 7,000 people living on Chalkhill. We tell him we are spending the night on the estate and he advises us to park our car some distance away. "Nice for you to have something to return to", he says.

1.30pm. I try to make a telephone call in a call box that has had all its glass smashed and is propped up by scaffolding poles. As I leave 10p in the slot a small boy aged about eight runs up, grabs the coin and disappears. I reverse the charges.

2.00pm. A man in the estate's office says that mugging has increased in the past three years because of unemployment. The estate was designed to be one of the biggest and best in Europe. The original drawings even had pictures of helicopters ferrying residents from the roof. There are numerous notices in the office requesting exchanges. One asks for "a 2 or 3-bedroom flat anywhere in Brent except Chalkhill or Stonebridge". Stonebridge is a nearby estate acquiring a reputation as forbidding as Chalkhill's.

2.15pm. Daddy Malo bounds up. He is dressed in big tortoiseshell spectacles, a patterned pullover and neat jeans. "I'm a gangster. If you don't leave I'll cut your head off. I'm real wicked. Unless you pay me you're in real trouble. You better get out of here." At first it's hard to tell if he's joking so we tell him we have no money. "Hey man, he's not joking. He means it", advises someone from a group watching Daddy Malo dance around us.

We try to change the subject. What is it like living on an estate known as a "muggers' paradise"? "That's a load of bull", snorts Daddy Malo. "It used to be a lot worse but it's cleared up now. They know who the daddies are around here." The group nods. "Tell him about that policeman", one says. "Yeah, there was this big problem with a racistist police officer called Ginger", continues Daddy Malo. "When he got hold of a nigger he kicked his head in and then used an iron bar. But he got jumped by about five black boys a long time ago and suffered a great deal of injury. He's not coming back."

With no hope of extracting money for what he says is a "sensational story", Daddy Malo gets bored. He declines to be photographed and lopes off down the corridor with his friends, casually hurling insults. We wonder if this is the first of the gangs we'll meet and if they'll be so friendly at midnight. We return to the car and remove all but a few pounds from our wallets and hide it in a sock under a seat.

I love my flat. If only I could cut it out and put it somewhere else.

3.30pm. PC Dave Rundle and PC Gerald McNamara are patrolling Chalkhill until 10pm. PC Rundle, who is 21, looks completely unflappable and has been on the estate beat for five months. "We get a mixed reaction", he says. "Some of the young guys shout at us or spit. There are some nasty characters about but by the time they're 21 they either cool down or go on to bigger things." PC McNamara was in a panda car hit by a door thrown from above. After that we spend most of our time glancing up at the walkways.

4.00pm. Tea at Gwendoline's. The flat is comfortable with a view of Wembley stadium. "I love my flat", she says. "If only I could cut it out and put it somewhere else." Outside we continue our voyage of exploration. It's getting dark and the corridors are more menacing. There is no one around so we knock on some doors. A man opens his, stares at us, open-mouthed, and then slams it.

An Irish mother of six is happy to chat. "There is nothing wrong living here", she says. Two men open another door. "This place is like the Dead Sea, man", one says. If he goes out to meet a girl he doesn't say he's from Chalkhill, because she may refuse to come back with him.

There is a siren blast and they run off. We feel safer with the police gone

10.40pm. A police van pulls up and four men pile out. We follow two of them as they check out the walkways. Their arrival is heralded by high-pitched whistling from the estate gangs. A single woman walks past below. The policemen nudge one another and one says "Brave woman", largely, I suspect, for our benefit.

The two others, join us and say they've "turfed out" about a dozen youths from a walkway where they were hanging around. "They'll be back when we've gone." The police seem to like the potential danger and are prone to dramatize. There is a sudden sharp blast on the van's siren and they run off. We feel safer with the police gone.

12.30am. The estate remains deserted. The only sound is some muffled rock music and caterwauling. One of the policemen had said a small girl had told them we were plainclothes police. Perhaps our presence is deterring crime. Or perhaps the cold and the rain is.

2.00am. No-one stirs, beyond two resentful cats being forcibly ejected.

2.45am. Another fruitless sortie. Not a sign of the wild parties and gangs of roaming muggers. Maybe they only come out on warm nights. Our sense of foreboding is beginning to evaporate and we get confident, wandering down corridors, careless whether our presence is known. The council is trying to prevent gangs running down walkways and is spending £1.5m on sealing each one off, so that a group of about 10 flats become self-contained in one corridor. The first ones quickly had the doors kicked down but the council is slowly winning.

4.30am. After a short sleep we again take to the walkways in the sky. Nothing. No sign of the police, gangs, lone muggers or granny victims. Just cats and rain. We walk fast to keep warm. Return to car.

6.30am. Chalkhill is stirring reluctantly. Figures walk steadfastly towards bus stops and the railway station. We meet Hasmukh on his milk round. He is much brighter this morning and introduces us to his friend, also called Hasmukh. They laugh about the previous day's incident. Hasmukh's wife stands in the doorway surrounded by dozens of packets of milk. Is Hasmukh worried that he will meet his attacker again? "No, no", he says quickly. "This time I'm sure it will be all right."

moreover...
Miles Kington

There is a picture hanging in the Photographers Gallery in Great Newport Street called "Christmas Dinner, South London, 1982". It shows a poor woman and two children eating nothing but sausage and beans, and when I saw it last week I felt as depressed and guilty as you do after reading the *Guardian*, which of course is exactly what I was intended to feel. It never occurred to me at the time that less than a week later, at Christmas Day lunchtime, I would get much less to eat than that, and that nobody would feel sorry for me.

Things started pretty well. We had gone to stay with my brother in Devon - four of us, four of them, very domestic, no trouble with the washing up etc. He lives on top of Dartmoor. If any of my readers is reading this in the prison nearby and decides to escape later, he will see my brother's house near enough if he heads eastwards. Anyway, supper on the first evening was all local produce - oysters and mussels from the River Dart.

Have you ever opened oysters? I never had. What you do is insert a knife and twist it, and a little flake of shell comes off. Then you put the blade in somewhere else, twist it again, and another fragment of shell comes off. Then you stick the blade in deeper elsewhere, twist it more sharply and the blade comes off. Then, when you have run out of knives, you apply small hand grenades to one end of the oyster. This just about does the trick, and after about two hours you have a dish of open oysters and a wrecked kitchen. The oysters were delicious. There weren't a great many per person, but we still had Christmas lunch to look forward to.

The next day, Christmas Eve, we had wild duck for supper. Have you ever plucked a duck? I never had. What you do is sit with the duck on your lap and pull the feathers out until you are surrounded by a pile of down 2ft high. This means you have almost completed one wing.

It is astonishing, by the way, that ducks, who spend most of their lives flying around, do not build up mighty wing muscles in the way that ballet dancers have thighs like balloons or tennis players have one hand four sizes larger than the other. But I regret to report that under all those feathers a duck wing looks as puny as a garter with the elastic gone. Perhaps ducks fly with their stomach muscles. Perhaps they walk everywhere these days. You have time for thoughts like these when you are plucking ducks, which takes two hours the way I do it. The duck was delicious; there wasn't much meat but we still had Christmas lunch to look forward to.

With Christmas Day only hours away, my brother and I realized we hadn't seen much of our families yet. We'd been too busy breaking and entering the larder. And now we had to wrap our presents. Have you ever wrapped a present? I had, but you wouldn't think so to look at me. I do it with a roll of sticky tape in one hand and a roll of sticky tape in the other. And the technique I use reminds people of someone trying to get the feathers back on to a wild duck.

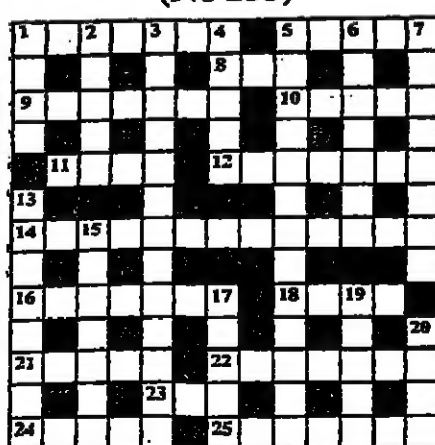
The only thing of note that happened before we finally got to bed was that my son was very ill. The only thing of note that happened during the night was that the two girls became very ill. The only interesting thing that happened on Christmas morning was that everyone else fell very ill, and by midday it was like being in the House of the Dying.

We did try to open our Christmas presents. Have you ever tried to open Christmas presents when your strength has sunk to below the strength of sticky tape? It's not easy, especially when you finally rip open the parcel and find that you've been given something edible.

Actually, it wasn't half a bad Christmas day at all; when the sick people are in a majority, it's the few healthy ones who feel the odd men out. We all crept around feeling sorry for ourselves and totally revelled in it. We speculated endlessly on whether it was the duck or mussels that caused the trouble. We switched off the Queen's broadcast after a couple of minutes because she looked so disgustingly well fed, unless of course it was the colour control.

In fact we felt incredibly virtuous when all eight of us got through the hours of Christmas twilight without touching a single solid. I think all I ever had for Christmas dinner, South Devon, 1983, was a cup of hot Bovril. My brother took a photograph of me doing it. We are sending it to the Photographers Gallery, Great Newport Street. You'll be able to see it there next year.

CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 235)



ACROSS
1 French resort area (7)
5 Flashlight (5)
8 In favour of (3)
9 Nightmarish demon (7)
10 Turns over (5)
11 Seiner (4)
12 Appetite (7)
14 Boston state (13)
16 Joins forces (7)
18 Straw beehive (4)
21 Furious (5)
22 Put to death (7)
23 Short nap (3)
24 Jumped (5)
25 Easily dissolved (7)

DOWN
1 Decayed building (4)
2 Petain's seat (5)
3 Discofigure (13)
4 Eccentric orbit extremity (5)
5 Fawcett's turtle (13)
6 Dependant (7)
7 Secret (4,4)
8 Majestic (8)
15 Seedless raisin (7)
17 Caste off (5)
19 American suburb (5)
20 We are (4)

SOLUTION TO No 234
ACROSS: 1 Format 5 Amaze 8 Rob 9 Sienna 10 Artful 11 Feel 12 Nihilist 14 Kangaroo court 17 Unbeliever 19 Aura 21 Pseudo 23 Anisus 24 Nun 25 Lycene 26 Diesel
DOWN: 2 Opology 3 Monologue 4 Trainer 5 Abash 6 TNT 7 Cruiser 13 Lookalike 15 Amnesty 16 Offhand 18 Irons 20 Rouge 22 Use

Tomorrow

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● Travel: For ever England in Malaysia; young and away in the USA

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FRIDAY PAGE

COMMENT

The ABCs of exams

It is about time the debate about educational standards moved to a more constructive ground. Of course, one of the main priorities of education must be to improve standards, but we need a proper definition of what that involves. If Britain is to prosper in the twenty-first century, our schools must develop the all-round talents, non-academic as well as academic, of all our children. Any adequate assessment of how we are doing will, therefore, require far more than a comparison of examination results.

Where do we stand today? In spite of the prophets of doom, there is no evidence of a decline in standards. On the contrary, after a decade in which most of our secondary schools went comprehensive, more children are passing exams than ever before.

Though results have obviously been influenced by the introduction of CSE exams and by the raising of the school-leaving age, the percentage of those leaving school without passing any exam has fallen dramatically. Equally impressively, the percentage of the relevant age group achieving between one and four O-levels and of the group achieving five O-levels has increased significantly, while the proportion passing A-levels has also improved, marginally. Even investigations into areas where there are difficulties (such as the Cockcroft report into mathematics) confirm that there is no sign of falling standards.

It is, however, wrong to rely on exam results alone as a measure of educational performance. Exams like O and A-level are not necessarily an effective guide to intellectual achievement or potential. As the report of the House of Commons education select committee pointed out, such exams tend to put a premium on memory and exam technique rather than on the capacity to reason and argue.

The present exam system at 16-plus is designed to cater for the children only. It is true that, with the introduction of CSE, six out of seven pupils obtain an examination certificate in at least one subject by the time they leave school. But only 55 per cent achieve one O-level pass (O-Grade A to C or CSE Grade 1) and only just over 25 per cent of 17-year-olds achieve five O-level passes. No wonder that it has been called a "failure system".

So what should be done? There is no quick way to improve standards. The task is especially difficult at a time when schools are starved of resources, when the bleak prospects for school-leavers must make many pupils question the purpose and value of education.

There are, however, some initiatives that can be taken in the near future. We need an early decision from Sir Keith Joseph in favour of a common exam at 16-plus. Although the CSE exam can often provide a more appropriate test than O-level, it is undeniable that employers, pupils and even teachers have looked on it as inferior. What is now required, in the words of the education select committee, is a "common system catering for a very wide range of ability without pressing inappropriate criteria on any individual group".

There is also a strong case for developing a national system of profile reports for school-leavers which record all successes and achievements (whether academic or not) and throw light on such qualities as enthusiasm, persistence, willingness to accept responsibilities and the ability to participate constructively in group activity. Such a development could act as a counter to the idea that exams are the be-all and end-all of schooling.

I remain an optimist about the education system. We have moved forward over the last decade and with intelligence, persistence and vision, we should make even greater advances over the next decade.

Giles Radice

The author, Labour MP for Durham East, is the Opposition education spokesman.

Alan Franks nurses a hangover and reflects that seasonal goodwill has been sorely tried

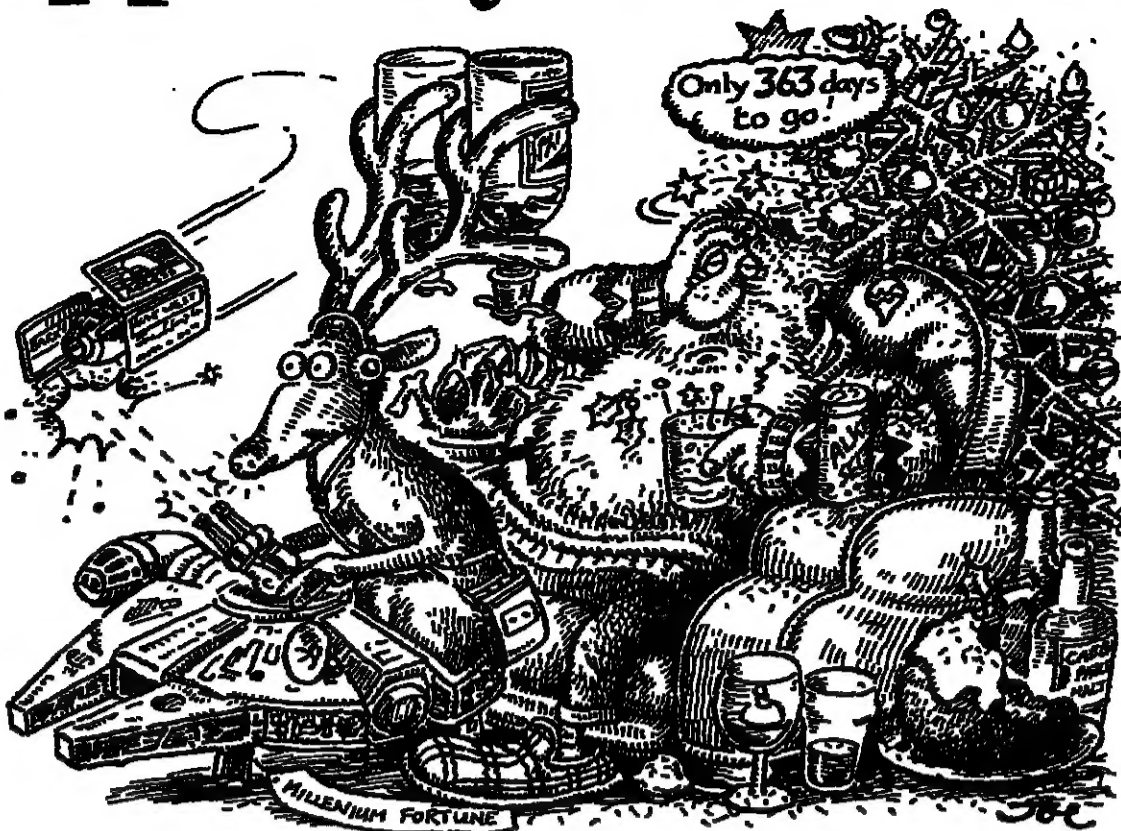
Some years ago a wag in the greetings industry came up with this desperate little stanza:

Christmas comes but once a year,
Bringing fog and fruitless cheer.
You're sure to have a hectic time,
But Merry Christmas just the same.
I agree, Terrible. But the man deserves just a pinch of credit for attempting an Alternative Message and for getting in that word "hectic", somehow overlooked for two millennia by Yuletide lyricists. If only it rhymed properly with dyspeptic, we would have the basis for a really first class Christmas couplet.

Look around you; children in varying stages of that dreadful seasonal ailment, PHD (Post Holiday Depression); yourself a victim of the adult counterpart, a hangover; cosmic weaponry all over the drawing room, with bleeps and flashes dreamed up in a spirit of punishment; and across the carpet a layer of Anti-Hoover Material, formerly known as Sika spruce needles. They say that Christmas is for children; in my opinion, formed in this trough between the two great festive peaks, the only truth in such a statement is that Christmas is definitely not for adults.

Have you noticed, parent, how your offspring ripped and raped those envelopes which bore their name? How they discarded the card and forged for the nub of the communication an autumnal dropping of green notes? How there was an obscene premium on the parity between the siblings' takings? You haven't? Then there is a terrible opacity in your vision, or else your children dissemble so well that they are a discredit to you.

I submit that when parents trot



out this tired old disclaimer about Christmas being for the children, what they are really doing is expecting their young (whom they have after all created in their own image) to go through a similar piece of duplicity: outwardly treating the whole protracted affair as some celebration of divinity, and inwardly yearning for material gain.

The whole thing has an awesome momentum about it, recession or no. Hamleys of Regent Street sustained a tremendous growth in their toy sales this year, with Star Wars artefacts outstripping the rest of the field; these included the Millennium Falcon Vehicle at £22.99,

the At-At Giant Imperial Mechanical Monster at £29.99, and the Snow Speeder at £12.99. It occurred to me that some of these prices would strain the resources of most families but I can only conclude that I am out of touch with the real economy of parental budgets at Christmas.

(Am I alone in laughing rather sickly at the recurrent suffix of 99 pence on all the prices? Can the stores really believe that £29.99 looks any closer to £29 simply because the buyer stands to get some "change" from his three tenners? Who do they think they are fooling? They must believe that suckers are

alive and well and living in debt, because the ploy has endured, to my knowledge, ever since Davy Crockett hats went for 6/11d).

Do you not also agree, parent, that if the nativity and its related produce were subjected to marketing techniques one fifth as sophisticated as those which sell toys, we should overnight become the most religiously devout nation this side of Islam?

I suppose the commercial price this Christmas was either Roland Rat (Hamleys sold out of the creature), or the Cabbage Patch Doll, neither of which has even the most tangential connexion with

Christmas. The first originated from a last cynical throw to boost a TV company's breakfast ratings; the second from a clever exploitation of the adoptive instincts which somehow survives in our children.

If these same children are today, five days after Christmas, tetchy, feckless and liverish, they deserve our tolerance, but because of our own condition they will probably get only our impatience. It is the age groups below six and over 13 which suffer the most. Members of the first may well not have had their credulity defiled, and could be termed the Santarites. Sensing the anticipation which by the end of last week had bloomed into hysteria, they came out in sympathy.

Somewhere beneath this behaviour there was no doubt the desire to please their parents, but after several days of sustained excitement they simply overheated and lost control. When adults are overtaken by a similar surfeit, the symptoms are somnolence, or boredom, or cramp of the smile, but children's reactive modes are less refined, and screaming is the common outlet.

As for the teenagers, they are in danger of falling into a Christmas limbo somewhere between childhood and adulthood. They are no longer in the frontline where gifts are concerned (at this age it may even be uncool to get too worked up about the festivities), but they could certainly use a good hefty present. If the week just ended is an index of a trend, then cash gifts are becoming more popular. Prosaic maybe, but infinitely convertible.

The other vital message, which a number of donors have just learnt the hard way, is this: if your child wants a Sony Walkman Two, don't get a Sony Walkman One. If he wants a Boy George album, don't settle for a Michael Jackson.

This year's prize error was by a north London parent who bought a Boots token for the eldest, although there is no Boots in the area. That is certainly not what Christmas is all about.

Women in Hungary

Changing minds

In Budapest, a man steps off the train and turns to give his hands to his wife, who follows him down. The old-world courtesy of the gesture seems incongruous in a country where official policy goes further than anywhere in the West in institutionalizing equality of the sexes. But that brief pantomime may give a truer picture of the status of women in Hungarian society than any number of official statements.

The egalitarian measures implemented in Hungary after the Second World War were superimposed on a society organized on highly traditional lines. The new order meant that more and more women went



A traditional role for this peasant woman

out to work, until today nearly 90 per cent do so.

The state has done a great deal to ease the burden of working mothers. They have the right to five months' maternity leave on full pay, and then either parent can stay at home for up to three years, drawing an allowance from the state, and still return to the same job. State kindergartens care for 88 per cent of children from three to six years old.

Responsibility for the smooth running of the home, however, and the health and well-being of the family, still tends to fall on women rather than men.

All this means that the women are carrying a double burden, just as working mothers do in the West. At nine or ten divorces per thousand existing marriages per year, the rate of marital breakdown is acknowledged to be high.

Meanwhile, women are clearly at a disadvantage in the labour market. On average, women in socialist countries earn only 70 to 80 per cent of the income enjoyed by men. Even these are official figures; in Hungary, almost everyone supplements a modest wage by moonlighting, dealing in black-market goods or otherwise cheating the system. Women with responsibilities at home have less time for this sort of activity. As in the West, all but the most highly qualified women tend to be concentrated in sectors of the labour market that are low-paid.

Hungarian women who choose to pursue courses of higher education and training experience few obstacles compared with their western contemporaries, and are much better represented in "male" professions. But once they start work, their prospects for promotion become worse and worse as time passes.

Katalin Koncz, senior lecturer at the Karl Marx University of Economics in Budapest, attributes most disadvantages to the state's failure, despite its efforts to create an environment in which women can work on an equal footing with men.

In Hungary there seems to be little more to be achieved through legislation. But a great deal can still be done through bringing up boys and girls to have the same aims and accept the same responsibilities. The experience is a reminder for western women, still struggling for many of the rights Hungarian women already take for granted, that change in government policy do not automatically bring about change of attitudes.

Georgina Ferry

Christmas through the ages: what the children thought



Kate Gillman, aged eight

Before: "I would like a briefcase for school because my other bag is torn. I've been going on about it for nearly a year. I'm looking forward to going to church. I go regularly, but dad only comes with us at Christmas because he's not a Catholic. I don't like turkey, because it's just like chicken, so we have a big chicken on Christmas Day, and ham on Boxing Day."

After: "I got the briefcase I wanted, and I also got a game of Monopoly from Father Christmas. I don't think it's an easy game because sometimes it's hard to keep what you've got, houses and things. Midnight Mass was quite nice because there were choirboys in the front row and girls in the organ loft..."



William McDowall, aged four

Before: "I went to Appletown and saw a suit of armour, and it made me want it. Not a real one. It might be gone by now, because there is only one there. I'm not sure whether to put my stocking on the wardrobe, or the bedpost, or the doorknob. The wardrobe, I think, because it's the highest place and Father Christmas will see it. He will bring me an extra present because I've bumped my nose. I'm not sure what the extra present will be, but it could be the plastic fencing sword, which I also saw in Appletown."

After: "My extra present was a Mister Happy hot water bottle for when I've got a cold. The shield is the wrong shape; it is a round one and it should have been a long one, like Mrs Palmer's. The helmet has knobs in it which hurt my brother's head. But my head is the right shape for a Roman helmet, so it doesn't hurt me. Father Christmas saw the stocking, so it was lucky I left it on the wardrobe - but he gave the plastic fencing sword to my brother."



William Palmer, aged 14

Before: "I've got a vague idea what I'm getting. I think it's a record player, and I know I'm getting a pair of jeans. The record player won't be new; it'll be a mended one. I'm giving my brother Andrew a Clint Eastwood poster... I'm looking forward to the whole day, not just the presents, but also the lunch and the other events."

After: "I got the record player, but I also got a pair of speakers, which I wasn't expecting. I know they were dad's old ones, because he's just bought a new pair, but that doesn't matter... The whole day definitely lived up to expectations; in fact, I would say it was better, partly because I had forgotten how nice the Christmas lunch is. Oh yes, and I gave mum a diary and dad a drill-bit."

Safety in numbers

6 The safe delivery Mrs Janet Walton's six girls is a triumph for the Liverpool obstetric and paediatric teams. They are now

Britain's only surviving sextuplets and the only ones in the world of the same sex. The Walton's unalloyed delight at finding themselves parents of a well-stocked premature baby unit would not be echoed by all prospective parents. For this reason, and because of the high mortality rate for very small babies, every effort is made to reduce the chance of multiple pregnancies, so that the likelihood of this happening to a woman undergoing infertility treatment is small.

Before conception Mrs Walton was having treatment for failure to ovulate. In these cases two types of hormone are used. After the first, if there is evidence that a multiple pregnancy is likely, the second is omitted, and at the next attempt a smaller dose is substituted. Monitoring is achieved by measuring blood levels of oestrogen and the counting, with the aid of a scanner, of enlarged follicles on the ovary.

For unknown reasons Mrs Walton's oestrogen levels were well within normal limits, and did not rise to the levels expected in a multiple pregnancy. In retrospect it is

considered that some bumps on her ovary noted at the time, thought of as being of no consequence, must have been ripening follicles.

In view of these apparently normal findings, Mrs Walton received the second hormone. As far as it is known none of the babies is identical, and fertilization and implantation of six embryos occurred.

At nine weeks Mr Usama Abdullah diagnosed at least five babies; the final count of six was only confirmed a week or two before delivery. The early diagnosis enabled Mrs Walton to be given appropriate antenatal care and for the paediatrician, Dr Richard Cooke, to train his team and prepare the necessary equipment.

Liver question

The many fans of Mr John le Mesurier, who died from a massive internal haemorrhage, will be pleased that the coroner stressed that although the actor was undoubtedly a convivial man who enjoyed a drink, it was impossible to be certain what had caused the trouble in this case.

Internal haemorrhage is often a terminal event in patients with cirrhosis of the liver. The hardening and shrinking of the liver which occurs in this disease impedes the free circulation of the blood around the liver. The back pressure from this obstruction causes varicose veins to

MEDICAL BRIEFING

form in the lower part of the oesophagus (gullet). Recently improved techniques have been introduced to help surgeons in their attempts to staunch the flow of blood which follows the bursting of one of these veins, but all too often their efforts are in vain.

Harmful treatment

Two years ago Professor J. R. A. Mitchell, of Nottingham University, published the results of a survey which seemed to show that more harm than good is done by treating high blood pressure in very old patients. He has renewed the controversy, by suggesting to the Lancet that doctors should change their set speech to the over-eighties, and now say: "Your blood pressure isn't normal, but at your age that's good".

Professor Mitchell told The Times that it was not known at what age it ceased to be beneficial to treat hypertension, or indeed what was an acceptable blood pressure for old people. It was universally accepted that in patients up to 60 or 65, treatment could be life-preserving; but there was little research data on the effects of treatment on people between this age and the work he and his team had done with the over-eighties.

"The doctor lies who tells a 70-year-old man that he knows that his blood pressure needs treating, if he says the same thing to a 70-year-old woman he lies twice over, for the truth is that he can only speak from the most enormous ignorance, as the majority of research on which his advice is based has been done on men under 60."

Trace of life

Dr Richards, Brian Harley Street doctor formerly of Sandwich, now defending himself in America against charges concerning conspiracy to murder his partner, has recently written the foreword to a book extolling the advantages of taking the trace element, selenium. Recent articles in both the BMJ and the Lancet would seem to support this.

The importance of trace elements to human health, long recognized in veterinary medicine, has only recently received publicity. Magnesium and selenium have both been the object of recent reports.

Low levels of malignant disease. A few years ago a scientist employed by one pharmaceutical firm was considered such a bore because of his preoccupation with the importance of magnesium that he was eventually dismissed. Unfortunately for him he was in advance of his time, for now the importance of this trace element is widely recognized. Low levels occur in some soft-water areas, and seem to be one of the factors contributing to an increased incidence of hypertension.

Hope for smokers

An experiment carried out in six group practices by the Addiction Research Unit of the Institute of Psychiatry, London, showed that when the offer of a prescription of nicotine gum was used to reinforce the doctors' advice and an anti-smoking booklet the number of patients who were still not smoking after a year virtually doubled. A report in the British Medical Journal suggests that this research is of importance as it offers a simple method of overcoming one of the problems of treating smokers; the time involved in long counselling sessions.

Kindest cut?

Before the war, circumcision was the hallmark without which no middle-class delivery was complete, but since then in Britain, it has been condemned by paediatricians as a dangerous mutilation.

Venerologists have had doubts about this reasoning. Apart from the often quoted freedom the operation is said to ensure from cancer of the penis and a sometimes disfiguring skin disease, BXO, they have always had the impression that minor skin and other infections are seen less often in the circumcised.

In order to investigate the theory that the operation is mutilating, functionally a mistake and aesthetically undesirable a simple survey was carried out a few years ago among very promiscuous women patients attending a London clinic, the only people whose judgment was considered to be less affected by emotion. By an overwhelming majority they declared a preference for circumcised men.

Anyone who's mean enough to celebrate the New Year without Smirnoff might need this card.

PLEASE EXCUSE ME AS I HAVE TEMPORARILY LOST MY VOICE.

Happy New Year!

CUT OUT, THEN DISPLAY AFTER EVERY SLUG OF CHEER VODKA.

SMIRNOFF

IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF

Dr Thomas Stuttford

THE TIMES

Review of the year 1983

George Hill ponders Lebanon, Grenada, Parkinson's sin, seat belts, acid rain, Andropov's cold, and finally drifts off into the void...

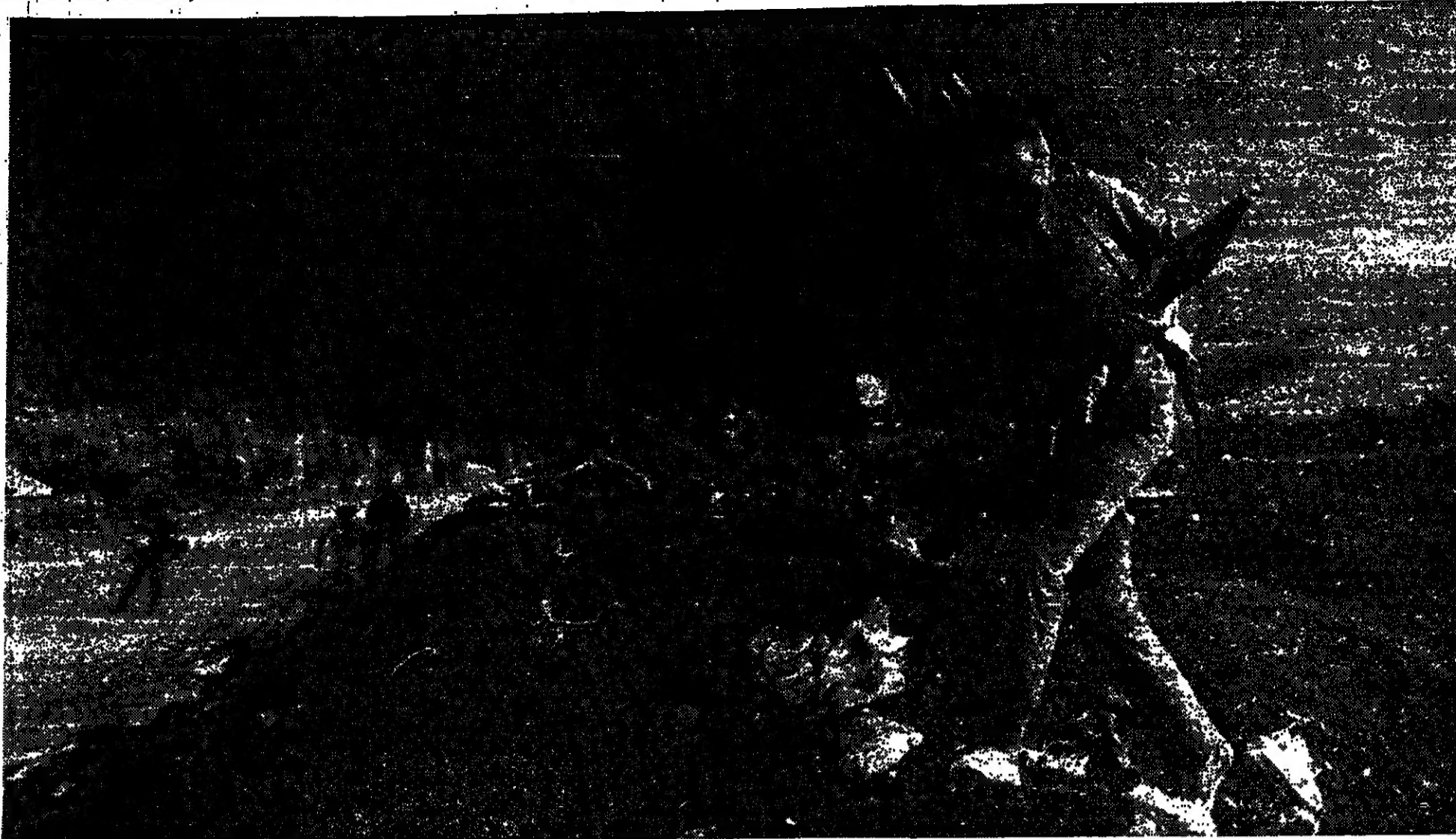
So we fastened our seatbelts and gingerly steered off into the last lap of history before George Orwell's year of dust and ash. Most of our lives have been spent under the approaching shadow that his prophetic cast with such precision across the calendar. On Sunday we shall wake up to find ourselves inside it, like victims of that science fiction storyline currently in vogue, who become incorporated in the landscape of a video game, forced to enact its imaginary conflicts in deadly earnest.

The initial view is less bleak than we had feared: we still have our freedoms (haven't we? No replacements issued if mislaid), and most of even our unemployed enjoy greater material wealth than average inhabitants of Orwell's fable, or his England. But our blustering and unreconciled world power-blocks sound more like his than they did a year ago and have infinitely greater destructive power at their disposal than he dreamt of. And there is no inkling in his dystopia of acid rain, half-price heroin, Dennis Nilsen, radioactive sandcastles, video nasties or the National Gallery Extension.

As for the rest of the world, there has never been a time when existence in Airstrip One would have seemed in many places other than an indulgent overture to those under the eye of the Aytollah. For many in Sri Lanka and Assam, it was enough to have survived the year alive. Its wars, from the Gulf to El Salvador, were all of the kind that seem indefinitely extensible: if the inhabitants of each battle zone are reduced eventually to two, it can be assumed that they will still be dodging round shattered blocks of reinforced concrete, lobbing grenades at each other.

British forces were involved in, or exposed to, the fighting in Lebanon, as part of an international force sent into the vacuum left by the Israelis. Its mission was to interpose itself between the combatants and draw the fire of each until such time as trust and harmony re-established themselves. The combatants accepted the diversionsary invitation with gusto, and civilian casualties were successfully reduced, though at the cost of several hundred American and French lives.

But to return to the seatbelts. The inner irony of the political life is that in spite of all the noise and glamour of power, politicians can seldom say: "We caused that, and it was a good thing" - at least, not without secretly crossing their fingers. The economy may start looking up, after 42 successive months of rising unemployment, but it is that because of one's policies, or in spite of them?



Lebanon: still dodging round shattered blocks of reinforced concrete

Channel a little extra tax relief to the struggling mortgagees, and ungrateful tenants are sure to cry foul because their housing benefit has been cut. Secure a subsidy of millions for the tobacco industry for the unimpeachable cause of health research, and someone will grumble because the effects of smoking have been excluded from the project.

But last January's seat belt order came as near as political action can to unequivocal good. Some 300 people will be toasting in Orwell Year tonight who would otherwise be dead now, and several thousand more would be serious casualties. One of those who may owe their lives to a seatbelt was elected leader of the Opposition shortly afterwards. If the salvation of the Labour Party thus proves eventually to have been brought about by a Tory enactment, that will be just one more of the little ironies of politics.

However unrewarding the métier, there was no shortage of applicants to enter it this year. With three million unemployed, people will snatch at anything even half respectable. It was not a vintage election, being deficient both in suspense and in great choices. But there was something awe-inspiring about the spectacle of the Labour campaign falling apart like one of those monuments of the industrial past brought down with strategic place-thunderbolts of explosive by Mr Fred Dibnah, hero of an addictive and symbolic television series. In Bermondsey the venerable fabric shook; in Liverpool it tottered; as the sacrificial Michael Foot gave his blessing to candidates on whom he had pronounced anathema. Then down it came, Mr Benn toppling one way deciding the brass-knocker vote, and Mr Healey the other, explaining how

unilateralism and multilateralism went hand in hand.

On The Day After, picking over the rubble, we observed that the Tories had gained the most decisive majority in 30 years on a slightly reduced minority share of the vote; that Labour retained a third of the seats with 28 per cent of the vote, and that Alliance had secured 26 per cent of the vote and one twenty-eighth of the seats. So this was what was meant by letting the voice of the people be heard, the ghost of Orwell whispered caustically.

But the first prime minister this century to win a working majority twice running was on top of the world. Or so one might have expected. Yet instead, events bore out Wellington's maxim about a battle won being only the next worst thing to a battle lost.

In addition, Mrs Thatcher was forced to dispense with the handso-

meat man in her cabinet for indecisiveness in his private life, and for having aroused the spite of someone adept at manipulating the media.

In the last analysis unemployment was to blame, as for most other evils of the time. If it were not so notoriously difficult for an able and resourceful woman to get ahead in the Tory party, Miss Sara Keyes would probably have found fulfilment nursing a safe seat instead of a baby, and have gone harmlessly to the backbenches, never to be heard of again.

Disasters and deterrents both found welcome reinforcement for their cases during the year in a study which indicated that even a desultory nuclear exchange would fill the stratosphere with enough dust to plunge the globe into an Arctic winter lasting for years. Just such a cataclysm is said to have

ended the age of the dinosaurs, and numerous grinning dinosaur skulls turned up all over England south of Watford, as if to mock us for imagining that we could manage our affairs any better than they.

The final successor of Big Brother spent most of the year unseen and unheard, engaged in a secret contest with illness and the inertia of a political system programmed to hold only one course. Sapped of the astringent energy he showed a year ago, Mr Andropov appeared as helpless as the captain of some immense airliner with hundreds of souls on board, locked on automatic pilot and cruising inexorably into dangerous airspace.

Winter this year was once again of the kind implying that spring cannot be far behind. Further behind than usual, however. As far south as Kent England experienced a freakish and exquisite White Easter. The weather

continued overcast until July 2, when the sun came out all over Europe, and stayed out for the rest of a sweltering summer and resplendent autumn.

Britain was so debilitated by the heat that few sporting exploits of significance occurred here, except in the line of anomalies. Surrey were skittled out by Essex for 14 runs, and the unseeded Chris Lewis found himself overparted in the final of a Wimbledon of fallible seeds. But India triumphantly beat the West Indies in the cricket world cup, to the astonishment even of themselves. In more temperate climes Australia accomplished great things, taking both the Ashes and the America's Cup.

The political affairs of the year were relatively straightforward, unanxious, concerned with the disposition of inconsiderable financial resources, and unimportant. But from time to time we felt the need (especially when the NCA had sealed the lips of Fleet Street because of a faraway freeshoot of which we knew little) of someone who could make all clear and dispel all confusions - someone with a mission to explain. We were fortunate that the advent of TV-AM brought us just such a mentor: Roland Rat.

In the film world, *Gandhi*, with its eight Oscars was only the most bemuddled of a number of outstanding British films.

Indeed, it was not a bad year for the arts generally, proving once again that there is nothing like a funding crisis to concentrate minds. At the end of the year, almost for the first time in memory, not one West End theatre was dark. Eduardo Paolozzi completed his merry mosaic on the London Underground, reputedly the largest work of art publicly commissioned in Britain this century.

It was the year when a brazen travesty of the sovereign became legal tender, when the Irish police bolted the stable door after the horse had been kidnapped, when it was not always advisable to drive a yellow Mini in Central London, when the IRA came to Harrods, and when Sir Oswald Mosley spoke from beyond the grave, and Hitler did not.

At about the time the Korean airliner was cruising into Soviet airspace, the spacecraft Pioneer 10, launched in 1972, became the first human artefact to escape the solar system altogether. Sent off from our flimsy planet like one of Noah's birds from the storm-tossed Ark, it left behind all terrestrial dangers from MiGs, Big Brothers, ayatollahs, Pershings, Tridents and politicians, and cruised away into the void, still twitting. It will probably outlast everything else that we have done.

Diary

Compiled by Jack Lonsdale

JANUARY

- The Times resumed publication following the loss of eight issues because of an industrial dispute.
- A dog falling into the sea at Blackpool caused the death of its owner and three police officers.
- The Pope named 18 new cardinals including one from Russia.
- Government reshuffled: Mr Michael Heseltine replaced Mr Nott (resigned) at Defence and was succeeded at Environment by Mr Tom King.
- Two RUC officers were shot dead at Rostrevor, Co Down.
- Capitain K. Kirk, a Danish fisherman, was fined £30,000 for fishing within the British 12-mile limit in the North Sea.
- The Anglican Evangelical Assembly was inaugurated.
- Australia regained the Ashes.
- Mrs Thatcher visited the Falklands.
- A Soviet officer was expelled from London for espionage (see also Sept 29).
- Mr Stephen Waddell was shot in the head in London in the belief that he was David Martin who had escaped from custody on Christmas Eve (see also 28 and Oct 19).
- Two RAF officers were found guilty of accidentally shooting down a Jaguar aircraft on May 25, 1982.
- The IRA murdered Judge William in Belfast.
- Forty-seven people were killed when a Turkish Airlines Boeing 727 crashed at Ankara.
- Nigeria expelled two million aliens; On the 31st Ghana opened its borders to its nationals.
- The BBC's early-morning television began; independent TV-am began on Feb 7.

- The Franks Committee on the invasion of the Falklands by Argentina reported: it could not have been foreseen; the machinery of government and British intelligence was open to criticism.
- The Court of Appeal ruled that refusal to work overtime by a group of employees was "industrial action".
- Demark ended its dispute with the EEC on fishing.
- Lance Corporal Philip Leslie Aldridge was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for passing secret information to Russia.
- Mr Michael Fagan, who broke into the Queen's bedroom on July 9 last year, was released from a Liverpool mental hospital.
- After five years of semi-autonomous rule, Namibia came under direct rule by South Africa.
- The Serpell report on British Rail suggested a smaller system and higher commuter fares.
- Job losses announced: British Shipbuilders - 2,300; on the 21st,

- Lucas - 1,200.
- The Irish Republic's Garda Commissioner and one of his deputies retired (Feb 1) following the telephone tapping of two journalists.
- Inflation fell to 5.4 per cent - lowest for 13 years.
- Hever Castle, Kent, was sold for about £9m to Broadland Properties.
- The Soviet satellite Cosmos 1402 fell harmlessly into the Indian Ocean.
- Bjorn Borg announced his retirement from world tennis.
- In Rome, among the sentences on the Red Brigade terrorists were 32 for life for 17 murders including that of Aldo Moro.
- Water and sewage workers began an official strike; it ended on Feb 24.
- The pound fell to \$1.5405, its lowest ever.
- A common fisheries policy for the EEC was initiated in Brussels.
- China commuted the death sentence imposed in Jan 1981 on Mao Tse-tung's widow, Jiang Qing.
- The Court of Appeal dismissed two applications for judicial review of decisions of the Boundary Commission.
- David Martin was recaptured in London; he was jailed for 25 years on Oct 11.
- Druze militia began shelling Beirut.
- Car seatbelt wearing became compulsory.
- President Reagan offered to meet Mr Andropov for a missile pact; the offer was rejected.

- A British Army unit arrived in Beirut.
- Six people were killed in Britain by gales of over 100 mph.
- Two strategic arms reduction talks resumed in Geneva.
- Unemployment rose to 3,224,715 - a record.
- The Press Council criticised newspapers for their coverage of the Yorkshire Ripper case.
- The Shops Bill (allowing Sunday trading) was defeated in the Commons.
- Twenty-two people were killed when a bomb exploded outside the PLO offices in Beirut.
- Condemned the Government and the Butcher of Lyons - was imprisoned in Lyons following expulsion from Bolivia.
- Iran launched a major offensive against Iraq.
- In Israel, the Kahan report on the Beirut Chabra and Sabra massacres in Sept 1982 condemned the Government and Mr Sharon, the defence minister, on the 11th the Government

- accepted the report and Mr Sharon resigned.
- The 1981 Derby winner Shergar was kidnapped from an Kildare.
- The General Synod rejected unilateral nuclear disarmament. Remains of three men were found in a drain in North London; on the 11th Dennis Andrew Nilsen was charged with murder; on Nov 4 he was found guilty on six counts of murder and two attempted; his sentence recommended at least 25 years in prison.
- Inflation fell to 4.9 per cent.
- The Sunday Times and Daily Star were found guilty of contempt of court in respect of reports about Mr Michael Fagan.
- The Government stated it had rejected dual-key control for cruise missiles because of the £1,000m cost.
- In Northern Italy 64 lives were lost in a Turin cinema fire and 10 in a cable-car accident near Aosta.
- The Queen began a month-long tour of the West Indies, Mexico and the west coast of America.
- Bush fires in southern Australia killed at least 69 people.
- Mr Anatoly Shcherbakov ended his four-month hunger strike in the Soviet Union.
- "Bermondsey was a disaster, quite frankly."
- Moss Evans after Bermondsey by-election.
- February 25
- More than 800 lives were lost in riots in Assam.
- The South Atlantic Fund reached £14.6m.
- Buckingham Palace applied for an injunction against The Sun to restrain it from publishing alleged details of the private life of the royal family; the action was dropped on March 2 with The Sun withdrawing further articles and paying £4,000 to a charity.
- The Labour Party expelled five militants.
- In the Bermondsey by-election, Liberal/SDP Alliance gained the seat from Labour.
- The estimated death toll in the violence in Assam rose to 1,500; thousands fled over the frontier.
- British Leyland received an extra £100m of public money. Miners in Wales went on strike.

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- The 100-nation non-aligned movement summit opened in Delhi.
- Ninety-eight miners were killed in a pit explosion in Turkey.
- A 1935 £1,000 bank note was auctioned at Spink's for £5,800.
- Miners voted against a strike on pit closures and on the 10th agreed to drop their year-old boycott of the NCB.
- "Don't go upstairs."
- Note pinned to door to warn maid when Arthur Koestler and his wife committed suicide.
- March 3
- Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the world ice dance championship at Helsinki.
- Opac cut the price of oil by 15 per cent.
- Budget: increases in drink, petrol and tobacco duties. Bank lending rate cut to 10.5 per cent.
- A letter bomb addressed to the Prime Minister was defused and a second one on the 18th.
- The multinational force in Beirut was attacked.
- Mrs Francis Griffiths, photographer of Cottingley Dell fairies in 1917, confessed that the photograph was a fake.
- The Prince and Princess of Wales left on a tour of Australia, arriving back on May 11.
- Mr Peter Jay resigned as chairman of TV-am; on April 19 Miss Anna Ford and Miss Angela Rippon were dismissed.
- The Government agreed to the development of a coal pit in the Vale of Belvoir.
- Drought in Ethiopia was bringing famine to more than a million people.
- Mr Chaim Herzog was elected president of Israel.
- President Kaunda of Zambia arrived on a state visit.
- The Keith Report recommended tougher measures against tax evaders.
- The death toll in the violence in Assam was estimated to be at least 5,000.
- The Pope inaugurated Holy year.
- The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Britain had violated prisoners' rights in censoring mail.
- British Leyland workers at Cowley went on strike over "washing-up time"; they returned on April 2.
- The Chester Report on the Football League proposed a reduction in the first division.
- Thirty-one Poles who jumped ship at Tilbury were allowed to remain in Britain for a year.
- At Walsand, a naval seaman dressed as a civilian took over a Falkland troopship; it was handed back to union labour on April 8.

- CND supporters linked hands to form a chain between Burghfield and Greattham Common.
- The IRA murdered a man at Bangor and admitted the next day it was a mistake.
- Workers clashed with police in cities in Poland.
- Steve Davis beat Cliff Thorburn for the world professional snooker title.
- Mr. Jeremy Carlisle was awarded £50,000 libel damages against the BBC over a television programme on the killing of his father 10 years ago.
- The Swedish navy exploded two missiles against a suspected submarine off its east coast.
- Starm began publication of the Hitler Diaries; on the 8th, West Germany declared them forgeries and The Sunday Times cancelled plans to publish them.
- At Sotheby's a suit of 18th century armour from Haver Castle fetched £1,925m.
- Mass protests in France against economic measures.
- New police powers on drinking - driving came into force.
- Soldiers of the PLO mutilated against Mr Yassir Arafat.

- Guerrillas in Matabeland murdered three white people.
- Vietnam mounted a major attack on Cambodian forces on the Thai frontier.
- America's space shuttle Challenger was launched; its communications satellite became out of control after launching.
- France expelled 47 Russian diplomats for alleged spying.
- An armed gang escaped with £7m from Security Express HQ.
- Thailand dropped napalm bombs on Vietnamese soldiers on the Cambodian border.
- Russia expelled a British journalist and the Financial Times correspondent.
- King Hussein of Jordan failed to reach agreement with the PLO on a Middle East plan.
- Relatives of those who had died in the Falklands arrived there on a 12-day visit.
- In Belfast 14 "loyalists" were sentenced on the evidence of a superspinner.
- General Galtieri, former Argentine president, was sentenced to 80 days detention for indiscipline; details of a court martial were reported on Nov 24.
- 12 Gandhi won eight Oscars.
- Unemployed school-leavers were offered a year's training in the Forces.
- Eleven people were murdered in Mafia violence in Sicily.
- Interest rates were cut to 10 per cent.
- The London Marathon.
- Thirty-nine people were killed when a bomb blasted the US embassy in Beirut.
- The Government committed itself to a free petrol by 1990.
- The £1 coin came into usage.
- Australia expelled a Soviet diplomat - an alleged KGB man.
- Four British rifle workers and two Irish nurses were kidnapped in Ethiopia; released on June 8.
- The VC awarded to Wing Commander James Nicholson was bought at auction for £110,000 by the RAF Battle of Britain Museum.
- The High Court ruled that the distribution of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society's A Guide to Self-Deprivation was not illegal.

- The inquiry into the Penlee life boat disaster of Dec 19, 1981, cleared the coastguards and the master and crew of the coaster.
- At Sotheby's, New York, 16 paintings fetched £10.45m.
- A car bomb killed 18 people in Pretoria; on the 23rd, South Africa Air Force bombed Maputo, Mozambique, in retaliation.
- Inflation fell to 4 per cent.
- The Criminal Justice Act came into operation.
- Syrian jets fired at Israeli planes over Lebanon.
- A ferry on the Upper Nile caught fire and 194 lives were lost.
- The Society of Authors received £400,000 from the will of Miss Margaret Elizabeth Trask, novelist.
- People Express made its first flight, London-New York for £99.
- The High Court awarded £4m damages against two video pirates.
- Eight Western leaders met at Williamsburg, Virginia.
- For the fourth time in 16 years a £1m Rembrandt was stolen from Dulwich Gallery, London.
- First meeting of the New Ireland Forum in Dublin.
- More than 200 Ugandan refugees were killed at Kiyuse camp by guerrillas.

- The IRA killed the wife of an Army sergeant in Londonderry. The Attorney-General ruled that the post-coital pill was "not illegal".
- Russia again refused to allow Dr Sakharov to leave the country.
- In one week two black men died while in police custody in Dinkelsdorp, Transvaal.
- British Rail losses for 1982 were £174m.
- The Plowden Committee on Top Salaries recommended 7.2 per cent increase for Forces; 6 (plus 2.7 Jan 84) for doctors; 47 per cent for Cabinet ministers - the last rejected by the Cabinet.
- The Government accepted a Security Commission plan for its sectors to be used on security staff.
- The Speaker, Mr George Thomas, retired, on June 15 Mr Bernard Weatherill was elected as the 154th Speaker.
- The Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Mgr Bruno Heim, criticised the CND secretary, Mgr Bruce Kent, on the 20th the Vatican disassociated itself from the criticism.
- An RUC officer was shot dead by the IRA in Belfast.
- Medium-range missile negotiations resumed in Geneva.
- Others 21: Mr Egan, Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Gerard Fitt lost their seats.
- Three guerrillas of the ANC were hanged in Pretoria.
- The morning sickness drug Debamox was withdrawn by its manufacturers.
- Cabinet changes: Mr Francis Pym (Foreign) was dismissed and replaced by Sir Geoffrey Howe (Exchequer) who was succeeded by Mr Nigel Lawson; Mr William Whitelaw (Home) was created an hereditary peer and succeeded by Mr. L. Brittan.
- Mr Roy Jenkins resigned as leader of the SDP.
- Pioneer 10 became the first machine to leave the solar system.
- Interest rates cut from 10 to 9½ per cent.
- The Pope began an eight-day pilgrimage to Poland; he met Mr Lech Walesa and General Jaruzelski on the 23rd.
- Mr Yuri Andropov was elected president of the USSR.
- The Central Policy Review Staff ("think tank") was disbanded.
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- A pay dispute at the Financial Times stopped production; it resumed on August 9.
- First prosecution of a video "nasty" under the Obscene Publications Act.
- A black South African miners' union won recognition.
- At the end of a four-day blockade at the USAF base at Upper Heyford more than 750 people had been arrested.
- Harry Kirkpatrick, INLA member who turned supergrass, received a life sentence in Belfast for admitted murders.
- The diocesan waste from Seveco arrived at the premises of Hoffmann La Roche in Basle (see also Sept 24).
- Wife burning in Delhi claimed its ninth victim in one week.
- Former Nazi Heinz Barth was jailed for life for war crimes including the June 1940 massacre at Oradour.
- BTR won control of Thomas Tilling with a takeover bid of £660m.
- General election: Conservative 397; Labour 209; Alliance 23; Others 21; Mr Egan, Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Gerard Fitt lost their seats.
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- The US Supreme Court ruled that Congress could not veto presidential decisions.
- Mr Yassir Arafat was ordered to leave Syria; his HQ was set up in Tripoli, Lebanon; pitched battles between PLO loyalists and rebels broke out on the 28th (see also Dec 20).
- Space shuttle Challenger completed its six days in orbit.
- India won the Prudential World Cricket Cup.
- Five British tourists were killed and 21 injured when their coach crashed near Avallon, France.
- Richard and Adrian Crane finished their 2,000-mile run across the Himalayas in 101 days.
- "I still hope it will be possible to find some place where his talents will be used to the best advantage of the country."
- William Whitelaw on sacking of Francis Pym from Cabinet, June 12
- A second inquest on Signor Roberto Calvi returned an open verdict - reversing the first verdict of suicide.
- A record price for an abstract - £1,512m - was paid for a Mondrian at Christie's.
- The Court of Session, Edinburgh, ruled that a local authority had no power to add fluoride to the water supply.
- The High Court in Melbourne ruled against the building of the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam in Tasmania.
- The House of Lords overruled an Appeal judgment that a husband had to leave home so that his wife could return there.
- A report criticised the West Yorkshire police handling of the Yorkshire Ripper murder hunt.
- Lorino failed in its attempt to separate Harrods from the House of Fraser.

- The IRA burnt Mr Gerard Fitt's house in Belfast.
- The Salford coalfield began production.
- The Government "fined" high-spending local authorities.
- British Aerospace announced 3,500 redundancies.
- The Defence White Paper showed Britain spending more per head than other leading members of NATO.
- Syria refused to withdraw from Lebanon.
- The £500m cut in public expenditure included £140m on health.
- The Prevention of Terrorism bill was published.
- An auction record for furniture was made when a Louis XVI cabinet fetched £950,000 at Sotheby's.
- Polisario guerrillas attacked Moroccan positions.
- Private Eye paid £25,000 in libel damages and costs to Sir James Goldsmith.
- The European Court of Justice continued on facing page

THE TIMES DIARY

Third person

A constitutional crisis looms at the next coronation over who will hold the office of Lord Great Chamberlain, the custodian of the Palace of Westminster.

The office switches every reign to one of three families: the Marquess of Cholmondeley, who is the present Lord Great Chamberlain, the Earl of Ancaster, the last, and the Marquess of Lincolnshire who should be the next, except that the title is extinct, the last marquess having died in 1928.

As the last marquess had five daughters, there are no laws of primogeniture as to which of the 20 odd surviving descendants should take this hereditary office. All the males and perhaps all the females have an equal right to be Lord Great Chamberlain.

John Brooke-Little, the Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, says the problem will have to be solved by the next monarch before the coronation or by the Committee of Privileges in the House of Lords.

Le snail

With French snails approaching zero population growth, the British variety is being sent across the Channel at an ever-increasing rate.

The Somerset village of Westbury sub-Mendips is well placed to take advantage of this new market because its drystone walls provide rich breeding grounds for the Mendip snail. A company based there now trails snails to France complete with garlic butter but tones down the version supplied to English restaurateurs by substituting a herb and cider sauce.

BARRY FANTONI

TOP SECURITY



"Hello, it's me again"

Feet first

The Prime Minister is a busy woman so I don't suppose she had time to read *Kindly Sit Down*, a compilation of after-dinner speeches by politicians and others collected by Jack Aspinwall MP, before she wrote the foreword to it. Had she turned to Roger Moore's contribution - "A politician is a person who approaches every subject with an open mouth" (Oscar Wilde) before taking up her own pen she might not have written: "It was, after all, the late governor Adlai Stevenson who defined a politician as one who approached every question with an open mouth."

On the way out

Unlike the genuine article, a fake broadsheet newspaper called *Not The 1984 Times* is very ungenerous with its bylines. Though articles such as "Tobacco companies move into nutrition" are not attributed, one gets a clue as to who the writers are by turning to the back page section headed *Not The 1984 Times Disinformation Service*. Here there is a short item about a fire which destroys El Vino's - "historic meeting place and centre of pre-revolutionary thought". Those seen escaping through a rear exit are listed alphabetically and read remarkably like a list of contributors.

Overvalued

Although £70,000 has already been spent on its promotion, the British Museum's exhibition "The Art of Korea" will not now take place in the spring. The reason for the cancellation is that the South Korean authorities put a valuation on the objects to be exhibited which was thought by the BM to be about three times their worth. The exhibition might have gone ahead had both parties discussed the valuation when the project was first mooted.

Out of bounds

At last week's Greater London Council question time it emerged that if the Government's plan goes through to abolish the GLC, and transfer its assets and functions to the domain of the borough councils, one result would be that a municipal golf course in Hainault Forest would be so divided that there would be nine holes in Redbridge, eight in Havering and one in Epping Forest.

Cold comfort

A Londoner who faced the prospect of an uncoked turkey on Christmas Day rang an LBC phone-in programme this week to say how grateful she was to the gas board for turning out when her oven failed to stay alight. "So everything turned out fine in the end" presenter Carol Thatcher asked.

"Oh yes," the woman replied, "a neighbour very kindly cooked the turkey."

"Hold on," Carol said, "what about the gas board?"

"Oh, they hadn't got the spares."

PHS

Bernard Levin on the morality of publishing confidential documents

When the press must publish and be damned

every institution with secrets to preserve, and in no time the staff is being trundled out in wheelbarrows. Still, that does not affect the principle. Should a reputable newspaper decline to publish a document obtained by the betrayal of a position of trust?

Newspapers, in this respect of their business, exist to reveal, as government (at all levels) exists to conceal, and there is no possible way in which these two interests can be reconciled. In Britain there is far too much official secrecy for our health, and governments of all stripes are always seeking ways of increasing it. (It may be taken as axiomatic that all claims made of behalf of new legislation to the effect that it is liberalizing the laws on obtaining information are the exact opposite of the truth - the Contempt of Court Act is a recent example which confirms this axiom in a most striking manner.)

The extent of our restrictions is indicated by the US Freedom of Information Act. American governments are no less enamoured of secrecy than are British ones, but the genuine independence of the American legislature ensured that this admirable, indeed noble, measure was passed into law. It is inconceivable that a whipped House of Commons would ever be allowed to give Britain something similar, though we need it more than the Americans, not less. (Our own, parallel, measure, aborted in the nick of time, would have greatly restricted our access to information.) And I am quite sure that the use of the law against those who seek to shed light on that which government wishes to remain in darkness will increase; it is very clear that those whose job it is to keep government secrets secret have now reached truly stupefying levels of laziness and incompetence, but instead of

but one thing I know for sure about those set in authority over us; if they did not fear exposure, they would all lie more than they do. It is not just an informed public opinion that is essential to democracy; it is a truthfully informed public opinion, and the shortfall in truth on the part of the authorities can be made good only by continuous and relentless investigation and exposure.

The man who passed on the DHSS document to *The Guardian* is not, apparently, to be prosecuted; I suspect that if the one who passed on the MoD document is apprehended, he will be. But I do not argue for a relaxation in the law itself. It is right, in most circumstances, for journalists to refuse to reveal the identity of their sources; it is also right, when they do refuse, for the law to punish them. It is clear that a newspaper which publishes a document obtained by a betrayal of trust is abetting that betrayal; it is not clear that it is necessarily abetting a crime, and I think the distinction is important. Important, mind, not absolute; if a newspaper had reason to believe that a Home Office official or senior police officer whose job was to advise on the authorization of official telephone tapping was corrupt or in the pay of an enemy power, who will argue that the newspaper would always be wrong (as it would undoubtedly be breaking the law) to tap his telephone, knowing that a complaint through official channels would be blocked by the man himself? (See the career of Kim Philby, *passim*.)

I would like to see a real British Freedom of Information Act, as I would like to see an end of many forms of official secrecy. But much more important than changing the law is seeing that the war on the concealers by the expositors is never abandoned. Newspapers should always strive to keep on the lawful side of the line, and not to complain when, if they should cross it, they are penalized. But to publish documents obtained by betrayal of trust cannot be always and automatically judged wrong, distasteful though it is. The policeman may have distasteful evidence to give, but he is not to be put out of court on that account. Should newspapers decline to publish material supplied by trust-breakers? Up to a point, Lord Copper.

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David Watt

Margaret Thatcher's last chance

The British public, according to the latest Gallup poll, expects 1984 to bring higher prices, higher unemployment and more labour trouble. As usual, the British public speaks with the voice of jaundiced common sense.

Ministers may point to flattening curves, improving trends, and - beyond "another four years of hard slog" - the distance glimpse of posterity, where inflation stands permanently at 4 per cent or below, and the standard rate of income tax at 25p in the pound, and where years will be wiped away from the eyes of everyone except Mr. Kinnoch, Mr. Scargill and two million permanently unemployed. The voters will believe in this promised land when they set foot in it, and not before.

Meanwhile, in 1984, the British pilgrim band will continue to plod through the night of doubt and sorrow much as it has in the last half of 1983. There are still no signs of a serious mutiny, but not many signs of positive thinking either, and some muttering that could easily turn nasty later on.

It is hard to fault these popular expectations. On the bright side, it is true, people may underestimate the extent of the economic recovery. It is genuinely possible (though rather improbable) that business confidence and investment will take off, that unemployment will actually fall during the year instead of merely standing still or increasing at a slower rate. But this possibility could be counterbalanced by external calamities over which no British government has any control, such as a financial crisis brought on by third world debts, or a violent change in oil prices.

Another way of putting the matter is to say that though we are only seven months past her triumphant reelection, Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues have astonishingly little room for manoeuvre, either economic or political. Their whole strategy has been geared to the recession - for without the dual collapse of trade union militancy and of commodity prices which the recession has caused, Thatcherism would have run into the buffers long since.

On the other hand, having squeezed as much advantage as possible from the situation in the form of low inflation, a productivity shake-out, and better control of public-sector wages without producing the desired new growth, it is hard to see how to make further real progress except by fulfilling the long-postponed promise to cut taxes and lower interest rates.

This is where the present argument in the Cabinet begins. Should one, as the Chancellor urges, make room by drastic new cuts in public expenditure, including defence and the social services? Should one, as the "wets" urge, hang on to the welfare state but take the inflationary risk of Keynesian expansion anyhow? Or should one try to compromise on marginal changes (as most of the Cabinet seem inclined to do), and hope the economy will inch forward on its own account?

The first strategy might mean a massive political revolt - all the more destructive if the restraints of recession were removed. The second would involve a severe loss of ideological face, and even if this could be concealed behind a good deal of economic mumbo-jumbo, the reappearance of inflation could not. As for the compromise strategy, it probably contains the highest risk of them all - the risk of getting the worst of all worlds and facing the electorate in 1987 or '88 with nothing to show for eight or nine years of misery except lower inflation, continued high unemployment and a moth-eaten welfare state.

From a strictly economic standpoint, a definite decision among these options could probably be postponed until 1985 or even, at a pinch, 1986. This would entail, in effect, the adoption of strategy number three during 1984. But that would mean further loss of the political initiative, which in fact began to slip from Mrs Thatcher's grasp as soon as the fundamental dilemma struck the new cabinet into a heap last autumn.

The Labour Party is in no position to take advantage of these troubles. It is all very well for Mr. Kinnoch to expatiate on the revival of true socialist democracy, with bags of real worker participation, and of the restoration of "production" to the socialist canon. But how can a party which has just reaffirmed undying close relations with the trade unions - unpopular, undemocratic and self-interested as they are - devise a productive strategy? Does anyone really think that nationalizing the banks, and renationalizing all the bits of industry that the Conservatives have just sold off, will cause investment to appear in the right places? Will a siege economy and withdrawal from the EEC do the trick?

The Alliance for its part, appears to be slightly more purposeful on these economic matters since, in order to reflate, it is at least prepared to grasp the nettle of an incomes policy. But the Alliance knows, and everyone else knows, that there are huge blank spaces in its prospectus where economic policy is supposed to be.

For the moment, however, the actions of Labour and the Alliance are irrelevant. The central issue of British politics in 1984 is in the Government's hands. It is whether Mrs Thatcher has the energy, commitment and authority to impose a decisive and probably painful solution, one way or the other, on some adroit and difficult ministers, and on a fractious and skittish parliamentary party.

Prime ministerial New Year verbiage about "toughness" and so forth means absolutely nothing, of course, except in that she is feeling defensive. What matters is whether she can make up her own mind, and then make the policy stick. My impression is that if she cannot do it in the next 12 months, she never will, and her personal decline will gather pace.

Philip Howard

Sam, Sam, pick up thy Newspeak

Dr Samuel Johnson: Sir, the reciprocal civility of authors is one of the most risible scenes in the farce of life. But I felicitate you that next year your romance 1984 is to be puffed and reassessed, and even read. The mills of publicity are already grinding. I ask whether you have any posthumous epexegesis that you would care to deliver about your attributions prognostications.

George Orwell (Eric Blair): I chose 1984 as the title and date of the book only as a second thought, and I could see even then that it was going to be a difficult year, when the pigeons came home to roost. The most surprising thing that has happened is that the language has proliferated into cotton wool rather than shrunk into steel. My Newspeak was meant to reduce the vocabulary, eliminate nuance, and provide a simple black-and-white language for the inhabitants of Airstrip One, for whom all modes of thought other than the correct one would be impossible. In fact the language has become so euphemistic and inflated with gobbledygook that it is common for entire speeches to be made and articles written on foundations of painted smoke rather than any thought at all.

Sam: When I was young, and starting work upon my *Dictionary* I thought that I could freeze the English language in its perfect state. I soon recognized that change in language is inevitable. If the changes that we fear be thus irresistible, what remains but to acquiesce with silence, as in the other insurmountable distresses of humanity? Give me an example of the change that you observe in English.

Orwell: I got nearer to it in an essay than in the book 1984. In it I offered as a joke a translation of *Ecclesiastes*, chapter 9, verse 11. You will remember the passage, Sir, about the race not being to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. I turned this into: "Objective consideration of contemporary phenomena compels the conclusion that success or failure in competitive activities exhibits no tendency to be commensurate with innate capacity, but that a considerable element of the unpredictable must invariably be taken into account." That seems to me to be the way in which some politicians, journalists, and sociologists have corrupted the language, into flatulence rather than regimentation.

Sam: Sir, that is to use language to break wind rather than to convey thought in precise words. But in this retrospective of your peoples you suffer not alone. Every writer has the same difficulties, and perhaps, every writer talks of them more than he thinks.

Orwell: You too, Dr Johnson, are about to suffer from the glare of publicity, for 1984 is, I think, the two-hundredth anniversary of your death. I imagine that we are about to have solemn bicentenary celebrations and commemoration by the publishers, the booksellers, and perhaps even from some of the many who still read and love your works.

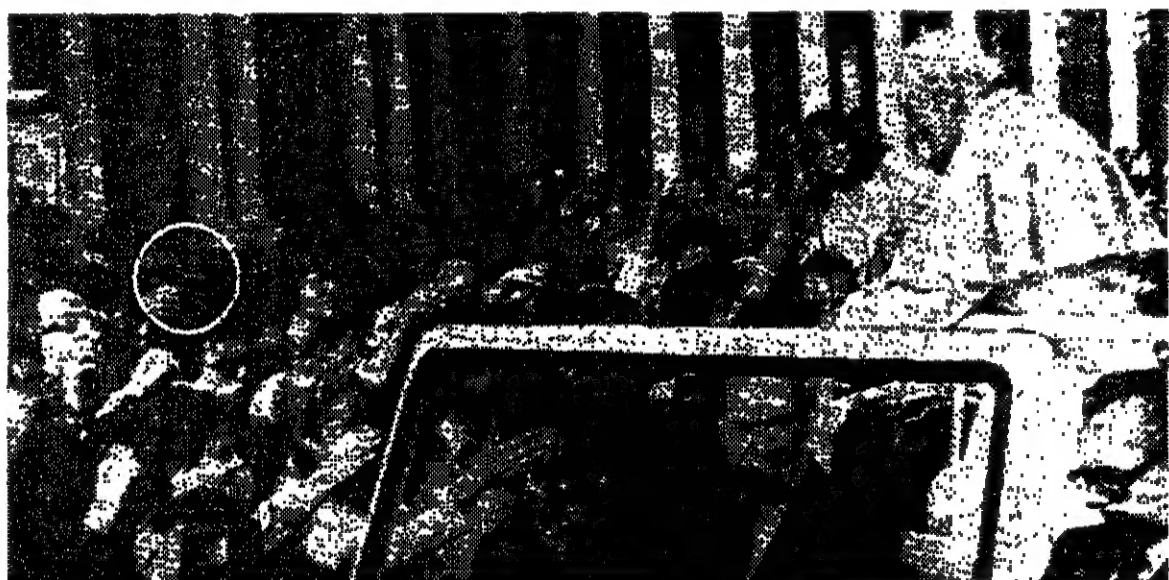
Sam: We must clear our minds of cant about these anniversaries. That deathbed that I feared so much, so unnecessarily, for much of my life may seem a sorry occasion for celebration. But we both worked, miserably poor, in Crutcher Street. We both know that there is nothing more appropriate than an anniversary as a peg on which to hang a pious article. The publishers and scribblers must eat.

Orwell: I hear that there is to be a Johnsonian international conference in July in Lichfield, London and Pembroke College, Oxford, this nest of singing birds, where you were a gay and frolicsome fellow, and passed the happiest part of your life. Sam: Sir, I was mad and violent. It was bitterness which they mistook for frolic. I was miserably poor, and I thought to fight my way by my literature and my wit, so I disregarded all power and all authority.

Orwell: Does it occur to you, Dr Johnson, that we are an odd pair of friends to find together, apart from the anniversary we share in 1984? Sam: I am Tory and a Jacobite; you are a republican and a vile Whig, but a socialist! And yet we share a bottom of Englishness. Orwell: We both made jokes. We are both praised by people who have never read us, and who would be shocked if they did. We both know the business of writing and living. We both moved as close as the English class system. Sam: Sir, we are well-matched and good friends. Even if we were not, the rogues would be making us together in 1984 for general convenience. Let us solve to enjoy it.

Who's next for Russia's killer squads?

Brian Crozier reveals the successes - and failures - of the Soviet Union's reorganized assassination schools



The Pope will have been more concerned with the state of the soul of the Turkish terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca than with the plotters behind him when the two met face to face in Rome's Rebibbia jail, where Agca is serving a life sentence for his attempt to assassinate John Paul II on May 13, 1981.

Agca caused a brief sensation some months earlier while going between his cell and the resumed inquiry into the plot, and in particular into the "Bulgarian connexion", when he said he had been trained by the KGB. He caused a further sensation by telling Judge Ilario Martella's court of inquiry that the KGB had trained him to kill not the Pope but Lech Walesa, who visited Rome in January that year. Italian security was particularly tight for the Solidarity leader's visit, and the attempt was abandoned. Instead, he fired at the Pope's security being comparatively slack as his open-top vehicle passed through a throng of pilgrims in St Peter's Square. It is hard to say which, if any, of Agca's statements is true, and the inquiry now seems likely to peter out in a welter of unproven allegations, alibis and contested evidence.

There is, however, a reality independent of charge and counter-charge: the KGB does have a highly trained, professional sabotage and assassination unit. Originally known as Department V, the unit was apparently disbanded in the 1970s, after the defection of Oleg Lyalin, its man in London. But it has since been reconstituted, much as the Comintern was reconstituted as the International Department of the ruling Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) two or three years after Stalin had "disappeared" in 1943.

After Lyalin's defection, 105 Soviet agents were expelled from Britain in September, 1971. Lyalin revealed precise plans for the destruction of the nuclear early warning system at Fylingdales in Yorkshire, and of the long-range communications establishment at Croydon in Suffolk, and even for the poisoning of London's water supplies.

Officially Department V was dead; in fact, its work was transferred

In the wake of these revelations, the Soviet Politburo decided that the existence of Department V was embarrassing. Its representatives were withdrawn from all over the world.

Officially, Department V was dead. In reality, its machinery was simply transferred to the 8th Department of Directorate S, First Chief Directorate, KGB. The 8th Department is the KGB's arm of foreign intelligence, and Directorate S is responsible primarily for the recruitment, training, infiltration and running of "illegals" - Soviet intelligence officers who, like the notorious "Lonsdale" in the naval secrets case in 1961, merge into the environment of the country to which they are assigned, under an assumed nationality and identity.

At the height of the Cold War and throughout the 1950s, strong-arm tactics, including assassination, were



Mehmet Ali Agca's attempt to assassinate a world figure (above) was initially intended by the KGB, he later alleged, for Lech Walesa (far left). A poison umbrella claimed Georgy Markov (centre): a poisoned drink failed against Hafizullah Amin

much in use. One of the KGB's predecessors, the MGB (Ministry of State Security), was a frequent practitioner. When the present KGB (Committee of State Security) was set up in 1954, sabotage and assassination were allocated to Department 13.

Favourite targets then were prominent exiles such as Lev Rebet, a Ukrainian émigré leader, who was assassinated in Munich by the Soviet agent Stashinsky in 1957. Occasionally, however, foreigners were selected for removal. Occasionally, too, things went wrong. In 1962, for example, the KGB mounted a plot to kill the Shah, but the operation failed because of a last-minute technical hitch.

At the 8th Department's training complex, known as Balashika - 13 miles east of the Moscow ring road near Gorkovskoye Shosse - selected candidates are trained in sabotage and paramilitary operations. Until four years ago, only a few First Chief Directorate officers were given methodical training in such areas, but the rapid expansion of Soviet adventures abroad over the past few years forced the pace. The main problem was to find enough trained men to take part in, and especially to lead, special operations when the decision to invade Afghanistan was taken in 1979.

Now all Directorate S officers must undergo special operations training, either on first entry or between overseas postings. The "subjects" are assassinations (planning and execution), and sabotage, especially of water supplies, power stations and communications.

At the planning stage of the invasion of Afghanistan the decision was taken to assassinate the then President, Hafizullah Amin, whom Moscow considered not pliant enough. He was eventually killed in his Kabul palace by Soviet special forces, but the KGB had already unsuccessfully attempted to remove him before the invasion.

A Directorate S officer, Lt-Col Talebov, was infiltrated into the palace, posing as a cook. Raised in Azerbaijan, Talebov could pass as

an Afghan. The plan was for him to slip poison into Amin's daily glass of fruit juice. Amin, however, was well-versed in the history of poisons administered to eastern potentates, and well aware of his precarious hold on power. He had already been diluting his drinks by mixing small quantities from different glasses of juice. Thus diluted, the poison was ineffective.

Soviet citizens do not, incidentally, have the monopoly of the Balashika training facilities. Selected satellite intelligence officers are also "processed" there, and in a different part of the complex, third world "freedom fighters" are also trained.

Involvement of foreign services widens the death machine's scope

The "outsiders" certainly include members of the Bulgarian Secret Service (Dzhiravna Sigurnost, or DS), who have long had close links with Directorate S, and members of the Cuban DGI (Direccion General de Inteligencia). The involvement of foreign services enormously widens the scope and flexibility of the assassination machine. For sensitive jobs, the Russians can subcontract with Bulgarians, Cubans and others; they in turn can subcontract with professional criminals or freelance terrorists.

In such cases, the hired killers would probably be unaware of the identity of their ultimate paymasters. Given the close control exercised from the start by the KGB over the Bulgarians, in particular, it is inconceivable that the latter would eliminate even their own nationals without consulting the Russians. This is true still in the event of major targets of no direct Bulgarian interest, such as the Pope or Lech Walesa.

The killing of the BBC Bulgarian language service translator, Georgy Markov, in 1978, would presumably have been an autonomous operation planned in Sofia, but even then the Soviets would have been consulted.

Important though Directorate S is within the KGB, the military arm of Soviet intelligence, the GRU, which gets the International Department's directives through the Defence Ministry, plays a quantitatively more important role in the fields of assassination and sabotage. The GRU's 5th Directorate, Department 2, has overall control of the Red Army's special forces which operate under the instructions of subordinate RI (Intelligence Directorate) formations with each group of Soviet Armies or a Military District.

The Soviet Special Forces (Spetsnaz) were at one time known as Diversionary Brigades. Most of the Spetsnaz units are committed to deep penetration operations behind the lines, initially in small groups but with larger formations in reserve.

Some would be infiltrated into NATO territory before any planned outbreak of hostilities, to sabotage communications, key defence installations and power and water supplies. For the most part, they wear Airborne Forces uniforms while on duty in the Soviet Union. In wartime, however, they would if necessary be issued with NATO uniforms and weapons.

If recent reports from Sweden are studied, the activities of the Spetsnaz would not be limited to NATO countries. The left-wing Swedish daily *Aftonbladet* recently carried detailed reports of the training of Spetsnaz troops for operations in neutral Sweden as well as in NATO countries. The newspaper claimed some units were already in Sweden.

Assassination is known to be a key element in Spetsnaz training. Certain units are assigned to seek and kill all political and military leaders in a target country, thus paralysing the command structure at the time of invasion, or even before an attack is launched. Some of the USSR's best athletes are allocated to such units in which the human qualities of nerve and discipline are highly prized - just as in the Olympic Games.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

PROTEST, NOT SABOTAGE

Two overriding considerations must shape the authorities' handling of the Greenham Common protest. The security of the missiles and the operational function of the base must be guaranteed at all times, including the land deployment of the missiles. And the measures taken to prevent interference must be such as not needlessly to provoke it, and such as to minimize active opposition to the policy of nuclear deterrence into which the cruise missiles at Greenham Common fit. All other considerations are secondary: the expense of policing, the affronted feelings of the Newbury bourgeoisie, the whereabouts of the limit of the right to peaceful protest. Important as these other matters are their importance is secondary.

It looks as if the civil authorities are getting themselves into a position to be able to mop up the encampments around the perimeter when they judge the moment to have arrived. Newbury district council has armed itself with new by-laws authorizing the removal of "buildings", including tents and bivouacs, from the common. The Ministry of Transport is blowing the dust off a road widening scheme that would cut the ground from under the feet of the campers at the main gate. If all moved in concert they might deprive the resident protesters of any lawful purchase in the immediate vicinity of the base.

So long as the women of the "peace camp" simply waved the flag of protest there was little justification for forcibly clearing them off. But since the arrival of the missiles the camp has also taken on the character of a base for offensive operations. There have been several mass assaults on the outer fence bringing sections of it down and causing personal injury; and there have

been several raiding parties which have cut through the wire and moved forward towards the heart of the military base, spending several hours before being picked up or giving themselves up. The latest was on Tuesday evening when three women made the air traffic control tower which was unmanned at the time.

The purpose of these raids so far has been to make a point, not sabotage. The women in the control tower, by their own account, had much delicate equipment at their mercy but did nothing worse than scrawl the spine-chilling message "Greenham women are everywhere" before looking for someone to surrender to. The United States peace-keeping force at Greenham is not in the same predicament as their counterparts in Beirut. But the aggressors, in this case women, are making the military authorities look foolish, which is almost as bad as making them look unsafe.

Improving the internal security of the military base is still a higher priority than clearing the women from the common, the immediate effect of which would probably be redoubled attempts at interference. The ease with which small parties of intruders can gain entry and wander about inside the base is disturbing, because, even if they remain fairly harmless, it means they are able to approach the area where guns are at the ready, raising the possibility of a politically disastrous misadventure.

Speaking of these matters in a short Commons debate just before the recess, Mr David Mellor, a junior Home Office minister said, "I go so far as to say that if a person has reached the area where that possibility arises [where servicemen would have to consider using firearms], it will be clear that he or she is not in the business of peacefully

demonstrating against cruise missiles." That is a comfortable assumption that the latest capers at Greenham Common appear to contradict. They stir the uneasiness that comes from absence of clarity about the circumstances permitting recourse to firearms.

The missiles are American weapons and it may be presumed that in the last resort American servicemen are responsible for their safety. British servicemen in their lawful use of firearms to protect life or vital installations are subject to the doctrine of minimum force as interpreted by the English courts. Similarly, according to Mr Mellor,

The use of firearms by United States servicemen [stationed in Britain] is governed by rules of engagement designed to ensure that fire is opened only in accordance with the law of the land [this land?] and the doctrine of the minimum force that is necessary and reasonable to protect life and vital installations.

That is good to know. But what of jurisdiction? The value of rules of engagement depends on how they are enforced.

Under the Visiting Forces Act if a visiting serviceman commits an act that is an offence against the law of both countries there is concurrent jurisdiction of United Kingdom courts and courts of the visiting force; if the act is in the course of duty then the authorities of the visiting force have primary jurisdiction and the right of jurisdiction of our courts comes into play only if the visiting military authorities do not exercise theirs. In other words allegations of improper use of firearms in the circumstances envisaged would fall to be dealt with by the American authorities, the jurisdiction of whose military courts is little known to us.

A MULTINATIONAL FORCE FOR ALL THAT

American impatience with Unesco is easy to understand. Unesco wastes money and does a lot of silly things. It puts out a good deal of high-minded drivel. It gets involved in political disputes over matters such as the status of Israel. Too often its members indulge in the luxury of abusing the developed nations that provide most of its funds. It wastes time and money on pernicious ideas like the "new world information and communications order", which is a cover for attempts by undemocratic regimes to control information. It deserves a bit of a shake-up and a fresh look at its aims and programmes. Probably it also deserves a new director-general.

Whether it deserves to lose the United States altogether, as is now threatened by Washington, is more questionable. Its imperfections reflect the imperfections of the world. Its composition reflects the emergence of new nations. When some of these rail against their richer benefactors they are saying something genuine about their own politics whether justified or not. When political disputes intrude they do so because a sufficient number of members think they are important. When woolly dreams prevail they do so because of innate human tendencies to fantasize

about how much better the world might be if it were not as it is.

All these things are part of the uncomfortable and unsatisfactory state of international politics today. Tempting though it is to run away from them, especially to a country with strong isolationist traditions like the United States, the better course is to stay in and fight. Unesco is not all bad. About thirty-seven per cent of its budget goes towards educational programmes, thirty per cent to science and eleven per cent to culture. The more objectionable activities take a very small part of the budget. If the United States wants to make a persuasive case for leaving it must explain why it thinks that the main core of practical programmes is not worth supporting. Would someone else take over Unesco's role in teaching Cambodian refugees to read? Would someone else send scientists to hold back the encroaching deserts of northern Kenya? Would someone else have rescued the temple of Abu Simbel? Would someone else take over Unesco's attempts to restore the Buddhist temples of Java and conserve the Valley of Katmandu?

Even if the answer to some of these questions is yes it remains

likely that the destruction or drastic reduction of Unesco's work would leave large gaps in worthwhile fields of endeavour. Does the United States intend to plug these gaps by spending the money it saves on direct bilateral assistance to the same or equivalent projects? If so, it will need to show that the money is better spent that way. If not, it will need to explain why the projects are not worthy of American support. Strong and clear arguments on these points would be more persuasive than wholly justified but not wholly relevant complaints about minor programmes and the idiocies that go on around the periphery and at meetings.

Great powers tend to lose dignity when they appear too thin-skinned or too upset when a joint enterprise does not go entirely their way. The best hope now is that the prospect of American withdrawal will shake Unesco into a re-examination of its shortcomings and thence to reforms which enable the Americans to re-consider. This is not an impossible task, especially if the Americans play an active reforming role in the coming year. If they merely sit on the sidelines and sulk the chances are that Unesco will deteriorate and American interests will not reap any noticeable benefits.

GETTING CLOSER TO THE PAST

"For a change, we had quite a big issue to decide at the Legislation Committee. Ages ago... Harold Wilson had persuaded the Cabinet to accept in principle the reduction of the fifty-year limitation on the publication of state documents, to thirty years. Whitehall didn't like this, and had resorted to the usual delaying tactics. ... There was no doubt about it, the Foreign Office had launched a counter-attack."

Richard Crossman's Diary drove a coach and horses through the thirty-year rule. As a result, we are let into the secret discussion behind this exemplary reform enacted by the second Wilson administration. His entry for April 25, 1967, depicts the unease felt by the guardians of official secrecy at the prospect of the public and the press getting hold of thirty-year-old stories missed, as so many were, by the political journalists of the day.

Whitehall's reservations found an eloquent spokesman when the Public Records Bill passed through the House of Lords in May, 1967. Lord Bridges, former Head of the Civil Service, said he doubted if a thirty-year rule would "give public servants the degree of confidence which they ought to have so that they can put out the facts absolutely fearlessly without any thought of their being disclosed prematurely". Bridges thought a forty-year rule "would be absolutely safe".

Despite his plea for four decades of confidentiality, the campaign by Britain's contemporary historians for a twenty-year mitigation of the fifty-year rule established by the Public Records Act 1958, was crowned with success. This time, roles have been reversed. Sir Douglas Wass, Lord Bridges's successor-five as head of the Treasury, has opened the campaign to trim the thirty-year rule while the contemporary historians have sat in silent contentment at their table in the Public Record Office calmly turning the pages of the Atlee administration.

Indeed, a fissure is instantly detectable between their views and those of Sir Douglas. Some scholars maintain that the thirty-year rule has already sullied the purity of the archive. Contemporary civil servants - having seen the discomfiture of Foreign Office men, involved as young officials in forcibly repatriating Russians in 1945-46, as a series of chilling minutes have been unwrapped - are more cautious in what they now commit to paper. When the 1940's files were created there was not even a fifty-year rule. Some historians conclude that if you want the truth to emerge one day the price to be paid is a fairly hefty period of secrecy.

Sir Douglas Wass has very different motives for what he

implies, though does not state, would be a ten-year rule (except for sensitive foreign, defence and intelligence material). They rest on a wider public interest not on the narrow, scholarly premise of the historian. The fifth of his Reith lectures, though it stressed the desirability of enabling the scholar to undertake documentary research while those who made the policy were still in a condition to be interviewed, was all about informing the citizen about what is done in his name by government. Sir Douglas mentioned the Bridges caveat, only to dismiss it. It did not justify a retention period of thirty years.

Public interest in this instance does outweigh scholarly preference. Even at the easily exaggerated cost of diluting the archive - officials under pressure do not constantly have the annual release at the Public Record Office in mind - it is of considerable benefit to have the recent past in a clearer focus for those who would make sense of the present. For example, if the Wass rule prevailed and not that established by the Public Records Act 1967, next week the newspapers would be carrying at least some of the inside story of Mr Heath's 1973 winter crisis, a period already distorted by myth-makers of one kind or another in Mrs Thatcher's Tory Party.

A royal guide to path of peace

From Mr Richard S. Rowntree

Sir There is always the danger of the impact of Christmas Day messages being lost because of assumptions that they are more to do with pious hopes than the actual realities of the world in which we live. This has never been true of the Queen's annual broadcasts and this year she has directed the country's attention to the most urgent problems facing us.

In stressing the need for genuine communication between the peoples of the world in seeking solutions to the uneven North/South distribution of our planet's resources and the requirement for less nationalism and more interdependence, her Majesty has outlined the objectives of a peace movement to which all responsible people should commit themselves wholeheartedly.

Nineteen eighty-three has been a year in which the increasing realisation of mankind's potential for self-destruction has caused divisions between those who share the common goal of peace. Yet the unilateral/multilateral argument, deeply and urgently felt as it is by both sides, is not at the heart of the matter.

May 1984 be made the year in which all work for those vital priorities for peace for which the Queen has called.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD S. ROWNTREE,
Kingsthorpe,
Glebe Road,
North Yorkshire,
YO1 1 2JF.
December 26.

Sellafield thoughts

From Dr John Twidell

Sir, Obviously 1984 has arrived. In reporting to Parliament about the radioactive emissions from the Sellafield reprocessing plant, Mr Patrick Jenkin stated in consecutive sentences:

a. "The radioactivity in the samples was well below the level that would constitute any hazard to the general population in the area" and
b. "The main concern is that anyone handling the more active samples from the beam could exceed the annual dose limit for the skin after only comparatively brief direct contact."

The statements are a clear case of 2+2=5. The public is being treated as innumerate [what is "comparatively brief"?] and irrational ["below the level" yet "exceeds the limit"].

Should we now expect notices on the Sellafield beach to read: "This beach is safe for the public when the public does not enter?"

Yours sincerely,
JOHN TWIDELL,
University of Strathclyde,
Department of Applied Physics,
John Anderson Building,
107 Rottenrow,
Glasgow,
December 23.

Judicial appointments

From Professor John Griffith

Sir, Despite my calling, I do not wish to argue with Mr Scruton when he suggests (nature, December 20) that judges should not be appointed from those who read law at a university. He says they should "imaginatively and liberally" and "competence and common sense" and who shall say he is wrong?

On December 7, 1983, the Lord Chancellor dismissed an Old Bailey judge who had been convicted on two charges of smuggling. This seems to me to raise questions closely related to, and perhaps, even more important than those concerned with the training of judges. How are their qualities assessed? How do we assure ourselves that mistakes are not made? How is the public to be protected?

We know that the Lord Chancellor appoints most of them and that the Prime Minister appoints the most senior but the procedures are not known and, given the chief of most people in the independence of the judiciary, it is desirable that appointments should be in the hands of politicians, especially perhaps these key appointments of the Master of the Rolls and the Lord Chief Justice?

Other countries have other methods which seem to avoid the involvement of politicians. Might there not be a cause for inquiry? Yours truly,
J. A. G. GRIFFITH,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2,
December 21.

Non-nuclear options

From Mr Walter Stein

Sir, Your leader of December 5 asserts that "some lip service is paid (by CND) to the need to study alternatives to nuclear defence; but the disciplines involved in a posture of armed neutrality are based on the fundamental premise that peace has to be fought for and always defended. Those premises are totally alien to the unilateralist doctrine."

This assertion is totally groundless. It also rests upon an ill-formed public image of "the unilateralist doctrine" for which The Times itself bears an important share of responsibility.

The leader's assertion is groundless since unilateral nuclear disarmament is wholly distinct from positions denying the premise that "peace has to be fought for and always defended" or which favour total military disarmament.

Unilateral nuclear disarmament can be based on strategic judgments that nuclear deterrence, especially in its present forms, is a recklessly irrational means of defence; or on the moral judgment that "the megaton nuclear bomb is the nearest thing to incarnate Evil in this world"

Promising way to stability in Ireland

From Lady Ewart-Biggs

Sir, Dr Garret FitzGerald, writing in your columns (December 23), has asked the British Government to join "with constitutional politicians in Ireland in a single urgent effort to create structures which will bring peace and real political progress."

I believe people on both sides of the Irish Sea could welcome such a commitment. For recognising it as a practical measure to help our two democracies in their fight against the growing common threat, they might now eschew the old fear that any Anglo-Irish rapprochement can come only as a prelude to British withdrawal from Northern Ireland and the reunification of the island.

The Dublin Government, with great courage, have taken a serious initiative in setting up the Northern Ireland Forum, the objective being to re-examine and reassess some of Ireland's own entrenched positions and thereby try to determine a new path forward towards peace and stability. But any proposals emanating from this forum can be rendered effective and changed only if met with a positive response from British political leaders.

Let us hope, for all our sakes, that such a response will be possible and forthcoming. For the increasing pressures and strains under which the British administration in Northern Ireland is struggling can only be relieved by an unequivocal statement of resolve and mutual trust between the two governments. And I feel sure that a vast majority of the British and Irish people, sickened by the carnage and not wishing to see so many of their loved ones die in vain, could both accept and welcome the Irish Prime Minister's proposition as the only way forward.

Yours faithfully,
JANE EWART-BIGGS,
House of Lords,
December 23.

Jobs in Gibraltar

From the Leader of the Gibraltar Opposition

Sir, Your editorial of December 13 does not mention that not only the TGWU but also the main Opposition party, the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce and many other people in Gibraltar oppose commercialisation of the naval dockyard as a viable economic alternative to the British Government's pledge itself to provide Gibraltar with the Defence White Paper of 1981.

The reports of the consultants engaged both by the Ministry of Overseas Development and by the Gibraltar Government, if made public, would confirm what your editorial affirms, that "the hard fact is that there is no viable alternative". These reports have been made available to the Opposition but only on a strictly confidential basis and I cannot therefore expand on this aspect.

Your editorial makes comparisons between Gibraltar and Chatham. Surely only if Chatham was economically blockaded by a foreign hostile state to make its inhabitants surrender British sovereignty would such a comparison be valid. The operation of the naval dockyard in Gibraltar is acknowledged to be the base of the Gibraltar economy. It is very possible and indeed probable that the economy of Gibraltar could be diversified in a situation where we have a normal frontier between Gibraltar and Spain and friendly relations exist, as was the case before the blockade when Gibraltar was economically self-sufficient. By closing the naval dockyard before the Gibraltar economy can be diversified an additional burden has been placed on our besieged economy which unfortunately a commercial ship-repair operation will do little to relieve. Please do not misunderstand opposition to the agreement reached between the Gibraltar and British governments as ingratitude, but rather as deep concern that a commercial operation of the naval dockyard cannot possibly replace that dockyard as the base of our economy. Yours faithfully,
PETER J. ISOLA,
Leader of the Opposition,
House of Assembly, Gibraltar,
December 16.

Heard to be done

From Mr A. F. Daly

Sir, The press coverage of the recent "witchcraft trial" in Livorno might suggest to the British reader that competent professional interpreters do not exist in Italy. This is not the case.

The International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) has about 120 members in Italy, some 15 of whom are domiciled in Florence, a mere 50 miles from where the trial was held. None of them was called upon to interpret however, which is not surprising in view of the huge discrepancy between Italian court rates and those charged by qualified professional

Rather it will seek to emphasise Northern Ireland's distinctiveness within the UK and, if possible, grant the Republic some small measure of sovereignty over it.

Many people in Britain and in Ireland would welcome political action of this kind but, let there be no doubt about it, the effect of such action would be to encourage the IRA to engage in further military activity like the Harrods bombing.

The IRA's objective is to end Westminster sovereignty over Northern Ireland prior to putting it under the sovereignty of Dail Eireann and steps in that direction taken by the British and Irish governments in response to the Harrods bombing will inevitably encourage them to further action in the reasonable expectation that further action will be rewarded with further steps towards their objective.

In political terms the IRA is not the enemy of the Irish Republic, since its objective is to extend its territory by six counties in accordance with the claim to rule over "the whole island of Ireland" embodied in the Irish Constitution, a claim supported by all political parties in the Republic, including Dr FitzGerald's.

The IRA continue to fight because they believe that, despite the condemnations of their actions emanating from many quarters in the South, the South is behind them in pursuit of the claim over the North, or will be behind them when victory is in sight. That, and the uncertainty which surrounds Britain's intentions with regard to the North, is what keeps the IRA going, despite having little or nothing to show for more than a decade of war.

To disabuse the IRA of this notion an Irish government could in theory seek to remove the claim over the North in the Irish Constitution from which the IRA derives authority for its war; in theory also it could legislate to extradite members of the IRA who take refuge in the Republic after committing acts of terrorism in the UK. But in practice it will do neither, because no political leader in the Republic has dared to abandon as hopeless the aim of achieving sovereignty over the North.

That being so, only Britain can convince the IRA that its campaign is hopeless: joint political action with the Republic to that end is impossible.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID MORRISON,
98 Lansdowne Road,
Belfast, Northern Ireland,
December 26.

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PETER J. ISOLA,
Leader of the Opposition,
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December 16.

interpreters (these being between 15 and 30 times higher than the rates charged by qualified professional

Small wonder that communication through the "court interpreters" produced such a stream of printable copy for the newspapers. But, on the other hand, what a disgrace in this age of advanced European integration!

Until the Italian judiciary recognises interpreting as a professional skill and agrees to pay the going professional rate, we can expect to see such cases continue to enrich the local folklore while making a laughing-stock of justice. Yours faithfully,
A. F. DALY, President,
International Association of Conference Interpreters,
As of 18 Circus Street, SE10.

How to combat glue-sniffing

From Mr Michael Woolman

Sir, Your correspondent, Mrs Lena Joy, asks (December 24) what she can or should do when confronted with 10 or 11-year-olds publicly sniffing glue along the Bayswater Road.

As head teacher of a large primary school near the Bayswater Road my advice is simple and straightforward. Mrs Joy must quietly and confidently approach the children and firmly ask them to give her the glue and the bags used for sniffing. They should then be clearly told the materials will be handed in at the nearest police station and can be claimed from there.

The children, of course, may not cooperate. If they run away they will, at least, be aware of adult concern. If they refuse to hand over the glue and bags and/or become abusive Mrs Joy must tell them, quietly and politely, that what they are doing is bad for them and the incident will be reported to the police immediately.

The pressures and freedoms of life in the 1980s, especially those eroding the traditional family units, mean many children are deprived of childhood. Despite the worldliness that such deprived 10 or 11-year-olds show they need, more than ever, guidance from responsible adults. Mrs Joy must help give that guidance.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WOOLMAN,
Head teacher,
Fox Primary School,
Kensington Place, W8,
December 25.

The new London

From Mr John Stefanidis

Sir, Piazzas and towers are replacing the squares and crescents that have made London uniquely English. Worse is to come if the proposed extension to the National Gallery were to be built. It will be an alley and banal presence in the triumphant vastness of Trafalgar Square.

There have been too many compromises and the public is never sufficiently informed, or given enough time to protest. How many people know that permission has been granted for a 300ft office tower at Little Britain, near St Paul's?

There was an international competition under the aegis of the London Docklands Development Corporation for the Elephant and Castle, south of Tower Bridge, on the river. Documentation for the competition was issued on August 8, 1983, and the entries were to be returned by October 3, 1983. August is not a propitious month for announcing a competition and not enough time was given for architects from all over the world to submit their entries.

Hay's Wharf on the South Bank has received special permission for another monumentally dull office development.

Despite the distinction of the late architect, Miles van der Rohe, the Mansion House Square proposals by him should be redesigned with the character of the City in mind.

The risk to London is more buildings which will remain as unloved as the Hayward Gallery, the National Arms Museum, the new Wellington Barracks and the Barbican.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEFANIDIS,
6 Burnall Street, SW3.

Penny-pinching

From Mr Paul Knapman

Sir, At lunch today the conversation turned to the difficulty with the half-penny coin.

One member complained that when paying by credit card his garage always "rounded up" in favour of the garage, but his neighbour announced that his garage "rounded down" in his favour.

There was then an interjection by a scientist. He took the view that where there was a fraction of a penny it should be rounded up or down in each case so as to leave an even number.

The lawyer opposite said that he thought this was an equitable solution.

Unfortunately no philosopher was present. Yours faithfully,
PAUL KNAPMAN,
The Athenaeum,
Fell Walk, SW1,
December 21.

Wing and prayer

From Miss M. J. Dean-Smith

Sir, It was reported in The Times (December 23) and elsewhere that angels destined for German Christmas trees were subject to tax unless they were winged.

Your learned Correspondent pointed out that pre-Christian angels were wingless and were endowed with them only about the fourth century A.D.

But what about the seraphim, the second in the nine orders of the angelic hierarchy inhabiting the supracosmic sphere? Isaiah, a "pre-Christian", says they had six wings (Isa. vi) and with two they did fly.

Chasman, Milton and even Pope knew that the wings of seraphim were of fire, only lesser orders of angels had wings of feathers, and merely two.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET DEAN-SMITH,
30 Beacon Hill Court,
Hindhead, Surrey.

From Mr John Field

Sir, When we exchanged presents on Christmas Day five were books. Two were printed in Hongkong, one in Italy, one in Belgium and one in England.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FIELD,
Whitebrook,
Widbrook Common,
Cockham, Berkshire.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Prince and the Princess of Wales are to visit Italy from October 14 to 29 next year at the invitation of the Italian Government.

Birthdays today

Mr David Bedford, 34; Mr Anthony Cripps, 63; Sir Reginald Groom, 77; Lord Haverfield, 76; Lord Howard of Glossford, 46; Professor J. T. Houghton, 52; Air Chief Marshal Sir Edmund Huddleston, 75; Professor Rosalinde Hurley, 54; Mr John P. Mitchell, 97; Sir John Pridmore, 68; Sir Albert Robinson, 68; Lord Taylor, 73; Lord Terrington, 68; Sir Eric Weiss, 75; Sir David Willocks, 64; Mr Clifford Williams, 57.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr John Rimmington to be Director General of the Health and Safety Executive for five years from January 1. He succeeds Mr John Lucas.

Forthcoming marriages

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs John Hay and Mrs Sally Hay, of Cheltenham, and Charlotte, daughter of Sir Peter Proby, Bt, and Lady Proby, of Elton, Peterborough.

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs F. B. Burnes, of Birkdale, Merseyside, and Isabelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. P. Dardier, of Vauqueres, France.

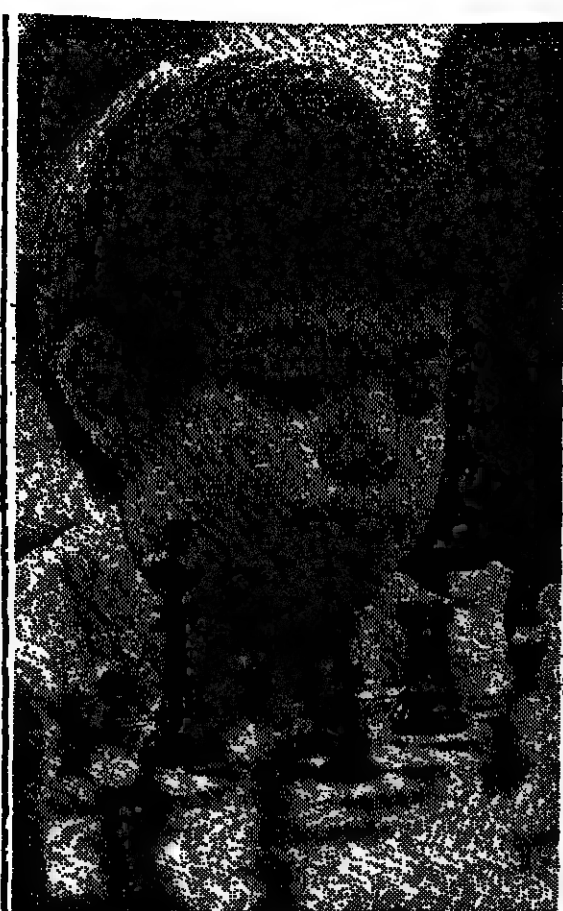
The engagement is announced between Hugh, youngest son of Mr and Mrs E. L. Townsend, of Sandford, Oxford, and Sarah, daughter of Captain and Mrs Nicholas Barker, of the Summer House, Wyke Hall, Gillingham, Dorset.

The engagement is announced between Jonathan Harri Greenbury, of Burnes, London, and Julia Margaret Walters-Rees, of Lisvane, Cardiff.

The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Group Captain and Mrs David Luck, of Longmeadow, Pritwell, near Epsom, Hampshire, and Lisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Neesham, of Hambro, Hampshire.

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr W. G. Melrose, of Lymington, and of Mrs A. H. Melrose, of Old Beas, West Sussex, and Barbara, daughter of Mr and Mrs T. C. Southworth, of Bournemouth.

The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H. A. Nelson, of Bramhall, Cheshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Moller, of Copenhagen.



Studies in concentration: Contestants in the London Junior Chess Championships at the Sir William Collins School, Somers Town, pondering their next move. From left, Dennis Hassapis, aged 7, of Finchley, Andy Butler, aged 11, of Sydenham, and Cathy Haslinger, aged 9, of Hayes, all London. (Photographs: John Voos).

Gatwick expansion opposed

Destruction of villages feared

By Michael Bally, Transport Editor

Conservationists in the Surrey stockbroker belt fear that privatization of the British Airports Authority could lead to massive expansion at Gatwick and the virtual destruction of dozens of attractive Surrey and West Sussex villages.

They are pressing the Government for assurances that a second runway will not be built at Gatwick after privatization, doubling its potential traffic to around 50 million a year, the same as Heathrow.

Mr Neil Matthews, chairman of the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign, said: "The BAA entered into a formal agreement with the West Sussex County Council not to build a second runway and it was against that background that permission was given for a second terminal, raising capacity from 16 million to 25 million passengers a year by the late '80s."

Mr A. S. Williams, of the Surrey Airports Association, said: "We are not political and therefore have no views as to privatization as such. But we are concerned that this agreement might not be firmly binding on a new owner, or that the Government might relax restrictions in privatizing the airport."

Mr A. S. Williams said: "The BAA entered into a formal agreement with the West Sussex County Council not to build a second runway and it was against that background that permission was given for a second terminal, raising capacity from 16 million to 25 million passengers a year by the late '80s."

authority in 1979 not to build a second runway at Gatwick for 40 years, and the BAA is hoping it will retain its present form after privatization.

The real point though is that there is no room for a second runway at Gatwick anyway. The only place it would have been possible is where the second terminal is being built and we took the decision that we would rather have a second terminal than a second runway."

A further rise to 30 million, which would be perfectly possible with a second runway, would "totally engulf us", he said.

One village, Charlwood, would probably be eliminated; there would be busy flight paths over the village of Horley, and "whole new swathes of people" would suffer from noise nuisance who did not have it now.

The BAA discounted the fears. "We agreed with the local

authority in 1979 not to build a second runway at Gatwick for 40 years, and the BAA is hoping it will retain its present form after privatization.

The real point though is that there is no room for a second runway at Gatwick anyway. The only place it would have been possible is where the second terminal is being built and we took the decision that we would rather have a second terminal than a second runway."

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Bottle bank scheme faltering

By Tony Samstag

Britain's recycling scheme for glass and metal, started in 1981, is faltering badly. The Glass Manufacturers Federation says it is "incredibly frustrated" by lack of government and local authority support for its bottle banks, and manufacturers of cans report little more progress.

The federation set a target of 250,000 tonnes a year, a recycling rate equivalent to 17 per cent of total British glass consumption, by 1984. The rate achieved this year is less than half that target, and has declined in recent months.

The annual glass recycling rate is now about 112,500 tonnes, only slightly higher than in 1982, and the worst in the EEC, even though a recycling plant was built at Harlow, Essex, and £5m was spent on the campaign, more than anywhere else in Europe.

In the Save-a-Can scheme 30 skips have been put on sites, 10 above the 1984 target, but no information is available on recovery rates, and a pilot plant for the recovery of tinplate cans from domestic refuse has been closed.

The recycling figures are reported in this month's issue of ENDS, the journal of Environmental Data Services.

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OBITUARY

SIR LIONEL RUSSELL

Influence in education

Sir Lionel Russell, C.B.E., who died on December 26 at the age of 80, was one of the leading figures in English education during the quarter of a century which followed the passing of the 1944 Education Act.

As Chief Education Officer for Birmingham from 1946 to 1968, he had responsibility for developing a modern education service in the industrial capital of the Midlands. And increasingly he was drawn into national policy-making on education through the Association of Education Committees and the Association of Municipal Corporations, and as a trusted private adviser of Ministers. He was knighted in 1962.

Born on May 8, 1903, Edward Lionel Russell was educated at Clifton College and Christ's College, Cambridge. From 1925-31 he was a lecturer at the University of Lund in Sweden. After three years teaching English at Charterhouse, he entered educational administration as assistant director of education for Liverpool in 1935.

Professor A. H. Halsey described him as "set in the mould of the best English administrative tradition - steady, and wise, reliable and practical, humane and uncorrupted". He was also set in a certain, relatively unpartisan, tradition of Birmingham local administration, where the strong civic pride and sense of obligation personified by Byng Kenrick and Sir Wilfrid Martineau (under whom Russell served) was matched by an insistence on the highest standards of meticulous administration.

Russell had the reputation of a very demanding chief - one who trained his staff the hard way: a skilled draftsman whose red pencil ravaged the drafts of others. He was a manager, not an educational theorist: he saw his job as that of creating the conditions in which good teachers could teach, not telling them what to do.

He had long-standing interests in further education and took great pride in the development of Birmingham's network

of evening institutes. He was involved at every stage in the evolution of the University of Aston from its origins in the Birmingham College of Technology.

His involvement with national educational policy-making included a spell on the University Grants Committee (from 1954-63) and the Council for National Academic Awards (1967-70). He was president of the Association of Chief Education Officers for 1955-57. In 1969 he was invited by the Secretary of State for Education, Mr Edward Short, to chair an inquiry into Adult Education in England and Wales.

When the report appeared in 1973, under Margaret Thatcher's Education Secretary, it was a landmark. The Russell Report advocated a steady expansion of adult education services over a seven-year period by a series of modest, practical and inexpensive measures. It failed to make any impact or arouse enthusiasm, least of all at Ministerial level where "a bit more of the same" made an unending slogan. As it happened, the seven years after the publication of the Russell Report saw adult education undermined by one spending cut after another. Both political parties paid lip-service to the Russell message; neither gave it any material support.

It was said at the time that the Russell Report had the demerits of Russell's own undoubted qualities - "caution and pragmatism and respect for the past and softly, softly into the future". It was part of Russell's personal integrity that he saw the job of his committee as to offer limited and practical suggestions for incremental improvement, not to strike attitudes.

He never married. Among his few interests outside his work was an abiding love of cricket: he was extremely knowledgeable about Gloucestershire past and present. He was a very private man, with a protective shyness which few penetrated, but behind the shyness and the formal, rather heavy, courtesy with which he treated everyone who had dealings with him, there was great kindness and consideration.

DENNIS WILSON

Dennis Wilson, a founder member of the Beach Boys, the American pop group, died on December 28 after diving into the water from a boat at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles. He was 39.

Temperamentally the most volatile of the three brothers at the core of a group whose intense, heavily raced, music matched the celebrated blend of its singers, Dennis Wilson was at first a drummer; later he also sang, composed and played keyboards.

Born in Hawthorne, California, on December 4, 1944, his adolescent prowess as a surfer-boiler inspired his older brother, Brian, to write the group's first hit song, "Surfer". In 1961, quickly followed by several successful variations on the theme and by the establishment of a specifically Californian style of pop known as "surf music".

The arrival of the Beatles threatened the preeminence of American pop music, and that

of the Beach Boys in particular. Brian, Dennis, and Carl, the youngest, responded by achieving in such songs as "Good Vibrations" and "Heroes and Villains" a musical richness and sophistication rare in pop and sometimes exceeding that of their British rivals.

Brian Wilson's various illnesses were subsequently to hinder the Beach Boys' development, but their popularity, on records and in concert has been maintained for more than 20 years. Earlier this year they performed in Washington for President and Mrs Reagan, thus confirming their status as a contemporary American institution.

Dennis Wilson's contributions to the group included a series of sombre compositions, notable for imaginative musical settings and suited to his slightly hoarse delivery. An LP under his own name, entitled *Pacific Ocean Blue*, was issued in the late 1970s.

DR A. S. PATERSON

Dr Arthur Spencer Paterson, scholar, psychiatrist and physician died on December 27 at the age of 83.

He was born in Aberdeen where his father, Professor W. P. Paterson, held the chair of Divinity. He won an Open Scholarship to Fettes College, read Greats at Oriel College, Oxford, and went on to Edinburgh University where he got a first in medicine and found his vocation in psychiatry.

He won a Rockefeller fellowship and worked with C. P. Richter at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and did research in Munich.

During the next 40 years he was at the forefront of psychiatric research and treatment. He went on to posts at the Maudsley Hospital, and Middlesex Hospital, before becoming consultant psychiatrist at the West London Hospital in 1946, the same year that he met Professor Ugo Cerletti of Rome whose work on ECT he introduced to this country.

During his 20 years at the West London, his two main aims were to organize a large and efficient psychiatric service under which patients received treatment some 18 months earlier than was generally the case, and to institute a laboratory in which ECT and other

new forms of therapy could be studied scientifically. His research attracted leading international, post-graduate students with whom he did pioneering work in medical hypnosis. His publications in collaboration with these young men made him a leading speaker at conferences throughout the world and the West London Hospital gained an international reputation for psychiatric work. During this period the number of patients consulting at the West London rose from about 1,300 to 6,000 per year.

But Paterson will chiefly be remembered for his work in two fields: firstly in general psychiatry where his strength of character and his early grounding in philosophy brought successful results for those with acute personal problems, and secondly in his work in the cure of alcoholism which later became his main interest.

He retired from the National Health Service in 1966, but his healing continued in private practice for another ten years, and he often took on long and difficult cases.

Paterson was married to the former Antoinette Barker, and in his retirement his great love was his family and grandchildren.

SIR JAMES CURRIE

Sir James Currie, KBE, CMG, who died on December 24 at the age of 76, was formerly in the Diplomatic Service.

He served in various capacities in Istanbul, Santiago, Washington and Copenhagen where he was Commercial Counsellor and Consul-General. He was appointed Consul-General at São Paulo in 1956 and at Johannesburg in 1962.

Subsequently he sat on the Commonwealth Foundation, the Civil Service Commission, and the Community Relations Commission.

The Rev J. M. Nicholson, who died on December 2 at the age of 75, was Archdeacon of Doncaster from 1955 to 1959 and Headmaster, the King's School, Tynemouth, from 1959 to 1970. He had been Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Newcastle.

Sir William Jenkin, CSI, CIE, who died on December 23 at the age of 84, joined the Indian Police Service in 1919 after service in the RFC in the First World War. He was formerly Deputy Director of the Intelligence Bureau, Home Department, Government of India and in 1950-51 Director of Intelligence, Malaya.

Science report

Throwing light on worm dynamics

By Hugh Clayton

Worms are among the busiest and most numerous of workers under the soil. Most farmers and gardeners are content to let the creatures work in their own way. They rely on the traditional assumption that worms are a sign of healthy soil, and that the more worms the better.

Research at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in New Zealand suggests that the role of the writhing animal is more complex than it looks. The experiments concerned only earthworms, and not the smaller and more motile worms associated with disease.

Earthworms are most active at night and those selected for the research in New Zealand were trained to be active at the same time as the workers who observed them. After three weeks the 165 worms of five species had learnt to perform in specially darkened conditions by day and to treat as daylight the bright illumination under which they lived at night.

They were then left for 13

weeks of spring and summer in identical glass-sided boxes in a carefully prepared, raked and sieved soil mixture at a population density equivalent to that at which they would occur in much greater numbers in a field. They were then allowed to dig.

Farmer's knowledge that there is a link between worms and soil health because the worms keep helping to turn the soil over. The work in New Zealand showed that some types of earthworm will burrow repeatedly in the same place even if their tunnelling work is disturbed several times by human cultivation.

The suggests that the worms do not quite the aimless dumb beasts that they appear. Two types of worm found in New Zealand, one of which is also very common in Britain, were found to push the soil sideways. But one of the close relations of the worm found in Britain pushed it vertically and was much less common.

Some types were less persistent than others in creating new burrows where

the original ones had been disturbed by cultivation. One variety of small worm with a bluish tinge, also found in Britain, carried on, as if nothing had happened when lime was sprinkled on the soil.

But some of the larger beasts were stimulated to greater activity beneath the soil when lime was sprinkled on the top. Lime is added to the soil of farms and gardens to correct its acidity and needs the help of worms to carry it below the surface. Some of the worms in the New Zealand experiments carried it much farther down than others.

The research produced a picture of worm dynamics that may have useful lessons for farmers. Some worms can clearly stand frequent cultivation much less well than others while some aerate the soil to a much greater depth than others. The widely held assumption that worms are good for soil may not be enough. It may need to be the right type of worm.

Source: *Journal of Applied Ecology*, December 1983, Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford.

Church news

The Rev C. W. Tennant, Vicar of Christ Church, Oxford, will officiate at the service of the late Mr. J. H. Wilson, Vicar of St. Paul's, London, at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, January 1, at St. Paul's, London.

The Rev M. C. Warren, Vicar of St. Mary's, London, will officiate at the service of the late Mr. J. H. Wilson, Vicar of St. Paul's, London, at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, January 1, at St. Paul's, London.

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THE ARTS

Cinema: David Robinson presents his personal honours list for 1983, and offers a little New Year diversion

Who could displace the old masters?

Best Picture of 1983: Without question, Ingmar Bergman's opulent recreation *Fanny and Alexander*, in the full (and not a second too long) 340-minute version. With Robert Bresson's austere and uncompromising *L'Argent* as runner-up. Even if the competition had been stiffer than it was in a generally lean year, it is unlikely that anyone could have displaced these two old masters.

Best Director: Bill Forsyth, for *Local Hero* and the authority, originality and charm of his comic vision.

Best Actor: Robert De Niro in Martin Scorsese's undervalued *King of Comedy*.

Best Actress: Meryl Streep in *Sophie's Choice*.

Special Prize for Progress and Promise: to Britain. "Renaissance" is a big word; but there were enough swallows to portend a fair summer, among them Michael Darrow's *Accounts*, Richard Eyre's *The Ploughman's Lunch*, Michael Radford's *Another Time, Another Place*, Desmond Davies's *The Country Girls* and John Schlesinger's *An Englishman Abroad*.

Most Original Comedy: Woody Allen's *Zelig*.

Most Outrageous Musical: Sylvester Stallone's *Staying Alive*.

Most Promising Newcomers: Peter Reiger (*Local Hero*), Julie Walters (*Educating Rita*), Greta Scacchi (*Heat and Dust*), Jennifer Beals (*Flashdance*).

Star of the Year (any year): Lillian Gish, who, viewed them at the Dominion, off-screen and on, at the re-presentation of her classic performances in *Broken Blossoms* and *The Wind*.

Birthday Girl of the Year: Estelle Winwood, 101 in January and still at work.

Best Film Festival: Tyneside, because it has a mind of its own.

Best Film Book: Virgin Books' *Film Year Book Volume Two* (£5.95) which combines fun, intelligence, affection and erudition.

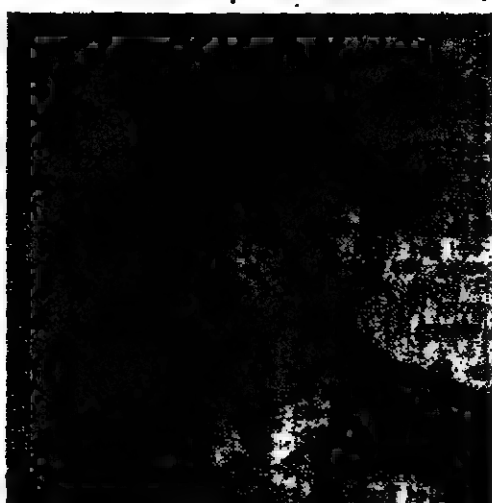
Vogues of the Year: Restoring mutilated films, in the wake of *Napoleon*. It is all right so long as they stick to *A Star is Born* and even *Heaven's Gate*; but just suppose they start finding mislaid bits of *The Stud* or *Raise the Titanic*.

Mistake of the Year: Remaking *Breathless*.

Turkeys of the Year: *The Hunger*.



Problem pictures: A (left), B, C



Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life*.

Worst Title: *I Dismember Mama*.

Valet: The year's obituaries included among directors the incomparable Luis Buñuel, George Cukor, Robert Aldrich and the Japanese enfant terrible Shuji Terayama; the stars Gloria Swanson, Dolores Del Rio, Ralph Richardson, Norma Shearer, Carolyn Jones, Raymond Massey, Pat O'Brien and the original Flash Gordon, Buster Crabbe; a great editor, William Hornbeck; and Otto Messmer, the creator, more than sixty years ago, of Felix the Cat.

To start the New Year, with no new commercial films on release, the National Film Theatre's survey of the work of Edmund Goulding has much to recommend it. Goulding is a fascinating figure in film history, though this appears to be the first

time he has been recognized as an auteur with a personal retrospective tribute.

He was a Londoner, born in 1891. A brief career in the London theatre was cut short by the First World War, after which he decided to try his luck in America. On Broadway he enjoyed rapid success as a playwright, with *Dancing Mothers* and *Daddy*, and in 1921 arrived in Hollywood as a writer. His career there was to last through four decades, from 1921, when he scripted Henry King's classic *Tolable David*, to 1958 when he directed his last film, *Mardi Gras*.

Goulding's great strengths as a director were a highly literate understanding of the text and great skill with actors, but particularly actresses. His leading ladies, all of whom seemed to excel under his direction, included Greta Garbo, Norma Shearer, Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Mary Astor, Constance Bennett, Joan Blondell, Ginger Rogers and Marilyn Monroe. A large part of his prolific Thirties output was melodrama, of the type in which fatal, lingering but never indecorous illnesses figure frequently. Goulding nevertheless often brought distinction to subjects like *The Flame Within*, *Dark Victory* and *The Old Maid*, in which Bette Davis plays one of her best pre-war roles.

In preference to the familiar heavyweights like *Grand Hotel* and the Oscar-winning *The Razor's Edge*, it is worth seeking out rarer treasures among the Goulding films, like the silent *Love*, with Garbo in the best of all adaptations of *Anna Karenina*, or *Blondie of the Follies*, with Marion Davies, whose gifts as a comedienne were too often obscured by her celebrity as Randolph Hearst's faithful mistress.

Goulding was a man of many and

surprising parts. As a song-writer he was responsible for "Love Your Magic Spell is Everywhere" as well as the title-song of his own 1956 *Teenage Rebel*.

To pass a few minutes of the New Year weekend, here is a short movie quiz, with questions ranging from simple to tricky:

1: In 1952 Marion Morrison and Maureen FitzSimmons starred in a film made in Ireland by Sean Aloysius O'Feeney. What was its title?

2: (picture A): Whose hand holds the camera? In what film? But whose are the legs reflected in the lens?

3: What film was advertised as "The Tragedy of a Man Who Couldn't Make Up His Mind"?

4: What do these gentlemen have in common: Spencer Tracy, Fritz Kortner, Cary Grant, Gary Cooper, David Bowie, John Wayne, Robert Donat?

5: Which film (a) provided the national song of America's New Deal era? (b) allegedly ruined the trade in men's undershirts?

6: In what films were these musical numbers performed: "Today I Feel So Happy", "Beyond the Blue Horizon", "Isn't It Romantic"? There's No Business Like Show Business", "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", "Dancing Queen to Check"?

7: What do these ladies have in common: Rita Hayworth, Vivienne Romance, Edna Purviance, Raquel Meller, Geraldine Farrar, Theda Bara, Pola Negri?

8: (pictures B and C): Find the lady. Who are these two players, seen in uncharacteristic costumes? [Answers with next week's film review.]

Television
Eloquent evocation

The second part of *Land of the Lakes* (Channel 4) - otherwise known as the *Land of the Orange Rucksacks* - concentrated upon the village of Troutbeck, this is Melvyn Bragg's labour of love, a pleasant evocation of the Cumbrian landscape, not the least significant aspect of which is the visible sense in which it remains in contact with the remote past. The Brigantes have vanished, of course, but the contemporary inhabitants still observe "immemorial" customs and might be rather dangerous. They were not altogether admiring of the "holiday homes" which spring up by the Lakes, for example, and no doubt we can expect to see these weekend Cumbrians sacrificed in front of Wordsworth's cottage; it was an interesting programme, principally because the natives still spoke engagingly and eloquently about their own past.

This was also the informing principle of *Patterns of Roses* (Channel 4): a teenager conversing in the country becomes possessed by images from the early part of the century. This kind of story exerts its own power, and it was tolerably well acted - although sometimes "atmospheric" music tended to drown the performances. There were some nice touches, however - a modern clergyman who wanted his daughter to become a probation officer, and the visionary teenager himself who seemed destined for a career in

advertising until the past claimed him. It was in part melodramatic (it might have been better as a "mystery" series at an earlier hour, and for children), but by no means wholly so.

The concluding part of *The World of Stanley Holloway* (BBC 1) was concerned with his last years, when he left the stage and worked principally on the screen - old songs like "Brown Boots" and "London's Pride" gave way to *My Fair Lady* and various appearances on American television shows, although only a purblind sentimentalist would regret the transition from music hall to the *Dean Martin Show*. They have more in common, perhaps, than we care to think.

Mr Holloway's great skill was in embodying the "lovable Cockney", and so sturdy a role can survive practically anything. It was certainly enough for him, although his own personality remained curiously absent from last night's programme. He was described as "pleasant" and "agreeable" although nobody, not even his son, seemed able to pierce beneath his carapace of benign amiability. He simply possessed the "desire to perform", and would no doubt have been quite satisfied with this show-business documentary, which was exhaustive but somewhat conventional in its approach and in its emphases.

Peter Ackroyd

Dance

Cinderella
Covent Garden

The Sleeping Beauty
Channel 4

David Wall seems to have solved the problem of how to make the Prince in *Cinderella* look something more than a lay figure dancing attendance on the heroine. What he does is to treat every moment as if he really had a role to play: bending forward eagerly, for instance, to catch the least word from the beautiful stranger's lips. As this is a ballet, she does

not actually utter any words, but the point is made.

Wall also dances more dashing than he has done in any other ballet this season, so his part came to life at Tuesday's performance. Unfortunately, although Jennifer Penney looks plausibly enough a fairy-tale princess, some of the sparkle has gone out of her dancing, probably because her performances are so few and far between nowadays.

David Peden, the latest in a series of new Jesters (how that court gets through its servants!), will make more effect if he brings to his main scenes some of the liveliness he showed when half hidden at the back.

Since one has to comment from time to time that some of the Royal Ballet's productions are less well directed and danced than in the past, it is only fair to say that the Kirov Ballet has a similar problem with its *Sleeping Beauty*, judging by Monday's broadcast on Channel 4.

On the other hand, the blame for announcing the whole ballet and then showing only part of it must fall squarely on Channel 4 itself. The specious introduction about a "specially edited version" was simply an attempt to wriggle out of the fact that the programmers had bungled and allowed insufficient time. They would not dare that with a play or opera, why should they get away with it for ballet?

Consequently, part of the story and many of the best dances were not shown. In what remained, the veteran ballerina Irina Kolpakova showed that she is still, at 50, a better and younger-looking Aurora than most, even some of us remember her better still in the past. Sergei Bereznoi makes a presentable but lightweight Prince Désiré.

For the real Kirov style, the trio of Jewel Fairies at the wedding (Olga Iskenderova, Natalia Spitsina and Natalia Apodyakos) came off best among the supporting cast: no doubt Leningrad, like London, has its young hopefuls to look forward to.

John Percival

1966

1970

1974

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GATE MAY FAIR
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ZELIG
ALL CINEMAS OPEN THROUGHOUT
NEW YEAR

Account ends on dull note

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings begin today. Dealings end, Jan 18. Settlement day, Jan 23.

The chill wind of higher US interest rates sent a shudder of apprehension through the London stock market yesterday as the long three week Christmas account ended on a dull note.

The overnight rise in the Fed rate from 9 per cent to 9 1/2 per cent took many dealers by surprise and prompted a bout of nervous profit taking which was exaggerated by the thin conditions following the seasonal break. The FT Index, which has enjoyed a record breaking run this account, closed 3.1 down at 772.5.

Gifts were in a subdued mood as the Bank of England took the opportunity to release a total of £600m of Government stock consisting of £300m of Treasury Index-Linked 2 per cent 1990, £100m of Treasury 3 per cent 1986 and £200m of Treasury 3 per cent 1987.

Dealers said the additional low coupon stock was aimed at mopping up the growing tide of cash from overseas roll-up funds and had made little impact on sentiment.

In long prices closed up to

25p lower mainly on lack of interest as investors continued to enjoy the extended break. On the foreign exchange the pound rallied 1.35 cents to \$1.4485.

Mr David Wickins, chairman of British Car Auctions, is pressing ahead with plans to inject the group's US auction business into Sandgate Corp. The listed New Jersey Ford dealer, BCA bought a 20 per cent stake in Sandgate three months ago and details of the deal are now expected in the New Year. Shares of BCA slipped 1p to 239p yesterday.

Leading equities were mostly lower, although some managed to close above their worst levels helped by sporadic bursts of new time support. Distillers added 2p to 240p still excited by the prospect of a mystery buyer, but reports of fierce competition among the big drug

manufacturers prompted falls in Beecham 3p to 308p, Fisons 5p to 737p and Glaxo 7p to 710p. The atrocious weather conditions in the US are expected to result in large insurance claims for some of our bigger insurance companies with interest rates there above their worst at the close, but still showed losses on the day.

Commercial Union fell 5p to 182p after its French acquisition, while General Accident lost 4p to 456p. Guardian Royal 3p to 518p, Minister Assets 12p to 376p, Phoenix Assurance 12p to 493p and Sun Alliance 10p to 214.27.

But the cold weather has been good news for oil shares hoping for a pick up in demand and the improvement in prices on the oil spot market. BP added 6p to 400p, British 3p to 198p, Clyde Petroleum 3p to 116p, London

& Scottish Marine Oil 14p to 291p, Ultramar 2p to 614p and Shell 5p to 566p. The Irish oil producers failed to join in the

revival with Aram Energy losing 2p to 70p, Atlantic Resources 25p to 640p, and Bala Resources 2p to 29p. Only Eglinton

put up any fight closing unchanged at 290p, after 280p. It has certainly been a memorable account for House of Fraser. Yesterday the shares slipped 2p to 248p, but are still 22p up on the account helped by renewed speculative support.

The rest of the stores sector has shrugged off the disappointment of the low level of attendances for the New Year sales following the recent Harrods bomb outrage and the threat of a bombing campaign by terrorists in London's West End.

Debenhams wiped out an earlier fall to close unchanged at 150p and MFI added 3p to 161p. Raters 3p to 46p and Waring & Gillows 3p to 95p. On the takeover front Electronic Machine slipped 3p to 67p on profit taking after the board's statement earlier in the week that it knew of no reason for the present strength of the share price.

Renewed speculative attention was again focused on Highgate & Job, 13p up at 190p, as the battle for control of the company continued.

THE TIMES 1000
1983/84
The World's Top Companies
Full statistical details and addresses: UK, Europe, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Singapore, etc.
From bookshops at £17.50 or £19.00 (inc. postage & packing) from Times Books Ltd., 16 Golden Square, London, W1.

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1001	1001	1001	Admiral	1001	0	0	0	0	0
1002	1002	1002	Admiral	1002	0	0	0	0	0
1003	1003	1003	Admiral	1003	0	0	0	0	0
1004	1004	1004	Admiral	1004	0	0	0	0	0
1005	1005	1005	Admiral	1005	0	0	0	0	0
1006	1006	1006	Admiral	1006	0	0	0	0	0
1007	1007	1007	Admiral	1007	0	0	0	0	0
1008	1008	1008	Admiral	1008	0	0	0	0	0
1009	1009	1009	Admiral	1009	0	0	0	0	0
1010	1010	1010	Admiral	1010	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1011	1011	1011	Admiral	1011	0	0	0	0	0
1012	1012	1012	Admiral	1012	0	0	0	0	0
1013	1013	1013	Admiral	1013	0	0	0	0	0
1014	1014	1014	Admiral	1014	0	0	0	0	0
1015	1015	1015	Admiral	1015	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1016	1016	1016	Admiral	1016	0	0	0	0	0
1017	1017	1017	Admiral	1017	0	0	0	0	0
1018	1018	1018	Admiral	1018	0	0	0	0	0
1019	1019	1019	Admiral	1019	0	0	0	0	0
1020	1020	1020	Admiral	1020	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1021	1021	1021	Admiral	1021	0	0	0	0	0
1022	1022	1022	Admiral	1022	0	0	0	0	0
1023	1023	1023	Admiral	1023	0	0	0	0	0
1024	1024	1024	Admiral	1024	0	0	0	0	0
1025	1025	1025	Admiral	1025	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1026	1026	1026	Admiral	1026	0	0	0	0	0
1027	1027	1027	Admiral	1027	0	0	0	0	0
1028	1028	1028	Admiral	1028	0	0	0	0	0
1029	1029	1029	Admiral	1029	0	0	0	0	0
1030	1030	1030	Admiral	1030	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1031	1031	1031	Admiral	1031	0	0	0	0	0
1032	1032	1032	Admiral	1032	0	0	0	0	0
1033	1033	1033	Admiral	1033	0	0	0	0	0
1034	1034	1034	Admiral	1034	0	0	0	0	0
1035	1035	1035	Admiral	1035	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1036	1036	1036	Admiral	1036	0	0	0	0	0
1037	1037	1037	Admiral	1037	0	0	0	0	0
1038	1038	1038	Admiral	1038	0	0	0	0	0
1039	1039	1039	Admiral	1039	0	0	0	0	0
1040	1040	1040	Admiral	1040	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1041	1041	1041	Admiral	1041	0	0	0	0	0
1042	1042	1042	Admiral	1042	0	0	0	0	0
1043	1043	1043	Admiral	1043	0	0	0	0	0
1044	1044	1044	Admiral	1044	0	0	0	0	0
1045	1045	1045	Admiral	1045	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1046	1046	1046	Admiral	1046	0	0	0	0	0
1047	1047	1047	Admiral	1047	0	0	0	0	0
1048	1048	1048	Admiral	1048	0	0	0	0	0
1049	1049	1049	Admiral	1049	0	0	0	0	0
1050	1050	1050	Admiral	1050	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1051	1051	1051	Admiral	1051	0	0	0	0	0
1052	1052	1052	Admiral	1052	0	0	0	0	0
1053	1053	1053	Admiral	1053	0	0	0	0	0
1054	1054	1054	Admiral	1054	0	0	0	0	0
1055	1055	1055	Admiral	1055	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1056	1056	1056	Admiral	1056	0	0	0	0	0
1057	1057	1057	Admiral	1057	0	0	0	0	0
1058	1058	1058	Admiral	1058	0	0	0	0	0
1059	1059	1059	Admiral	1059	0	0	0	0	0
1060	1060	1060	Admiral	1060	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1061	1061	1061	Admiral	1061	0	0	0	0	0
1062	1062	1062	Admiral	1062	0	0	0	0	0
1063	1063	1063	Admiral	1063	0	0	0	0	0
1064	1064	1064	Admiral	1064	0	0	0	0	0
1065	1065	1065	Admiral	1065	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1066	1066	1066	Admiral	1066	0	0	0	0	0
1067	1067	1067	Admiral	1067	0	0	0	0	0
1068	1068	1068	Admiral	1068	0	0	0	0	0
1069	1069	1069	Admiral	1069	0	0	0	0	0
1070	1070	1070	Admiral	1070	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1071	1071	1071	Admiral	1071	0	0	0	0	0
1072	1072	1072	Admiral	1072	0	0	0	0	0
1073	1073	1073	Admiral	1073	0	0	0	0	0
1074	1074	1074	Admiral	1074	0	0	0	0	0
1075	1075	1075	Admiral	1075	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1076	1076	1076	Admiral	1076	0	0	0	0	0
1077	1077	1077	Admiral	1077	0	0	0	0	0
1078	1078	1078	Admiral	1078	0	0	0	0	0
1079	1079	1079	Admiral	1079	0	0	0	0	0
1080	1080	1080	Admiral	1080	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1081	1081	1081	Admiral	1081	0	0	0	0	0
1082	1082	1082	Admiral	1082	0	0	0	0	0
1083	1083	1083	Admiral	1083	0	0	0	0	0
1084	1084	1084	Admiral	1084	0	0	0	0	0
1085	1085	1085	Admiral	1085	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1086	1086	1086	Admiral	1086	0	0	0	0	0
1087	1087	1087	Admiral	1087	0	0	0	0	0
1088	1088	1088	Admiral	1088	0	0	0	0	0
1089	1089	1089	Admiral	1089	0	0	0	0	0
1090	1090	1090	Admiral	1090	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1091	1091	1091	Admiral	1091	0	0	0	0	0
1092	1092	1092	Admiral	1092	0	0	0	0	0
1093	1093	1093	Admiral	1093	0	0	0	0	0
1094	1094	1094	Admiral	1094	0	0	0	0	0
1095	1095	1095	Admiral	1095	0	0	0	0	0

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch	%	Div	Yld	P/E
1096	1096	1096	Admiral	1096	0	0	0	0	0
1097	1097	1097	Admiral	1097	0	0	0	0	0
1098	1098	1098	Admiral	1098	0	0	0	0	0
1099	1099	1099	Admiral	1099	0	0	0	0	0
1100	1100	1100	Admiral	1100	0	0	0	0	0

135	128	128	Securguard	130			2.5	1.9	28.1
88	48	5	S.W. Homestead	88			2.8	3.9	

* Ex dividend, a Ex all, b Forecast dividend, c Corrected price, e Interim payment passed, f Price Suspension, g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment, h Bid for company, i Pre-merger figures, j Forecast earnings

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why Lonrho declined to sponsor \$1m Derby

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, as even his bitterest adversaries admit, is a man of extraordinary charm. It is, therefore, all the more regrettable that he so often communicates through lawyers, especially one who abruptly ends a conversation by putting down the telephone. Otherwise, in their written response to my column of December 23 ("Fraser expects Lonrho to attempt the obvious"), Mr Rowland and a firm of solicitors called Cameron Markby could not have been more helpful.

In the first place "our clients" (Lonrho) position in regard to Mr John Griffiths' report is that they are content to await the outcome of his enquiries. This will be welcome news for the majority of House of Fraser directors who feared that Lonrho, the enemy without the gates, might seek an extraordinary meeting to oust Professor Roland Smith, the chairman, and two other directors, Mr Ernest Sharp and Mr George Willoughby, before Mr Griffiths reports to the Department of Trade and Industry the results of his investigation into the House of Fraser share register. It also confirms my view that Mr Rowland would not act in this way.

Mr Rowland, through his solicitors, has also been good enough to clear up another matter of huge concern to the racing public, namely Lonrho's willingness to sponsor the Epsom Derby. I wrote here last week that Lonrho's offer to sponsor the greatest race in the flat racing calendar for £600,000 had been refused "because of a certain condition" Mr Rowland had laid down.

The condition "to which", according to Cameron Markby, "you refer was that Lonrho's sponsorship should be unanimously accepted by United Racecourses Limited (who were in fact responsible, not the Jockey Club). In the event a decision on sponsorship was deferred until 1985, apparently for lack of time within which to consider the matter fully. But there was no suggestion of any objection to our clients as potential sponsors; and they have recently received a letter inviting them to consider sponsorship in 1985. They declined the invitation."

A copy of the letter, dated December 6, from Mr Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of United Racecourses, was sent to me. Addressed to Lord Duncan-Sandys, it asks whether Lonrho "would be interested in entering discussions with United Racecourses Limited with a view to sponsorship of the Derby Stakes at Epsom in 1985, 86 and 87, and possibly for a further two years. We are looking for a contribution equivalent to \$1m for each year."

The UR board's aim is "to establish a shortlist of companies who may be interested in this uniquely prestigious marketing opportunity, and then to negotiate a detailed contract to fulfil mutual objectives".

That, I trust, goes a long way to clearing up the Derby point. There remains the vital matter of the public's response to "Seasons Greetings from Lonrho" in the windows of the old Bunney Club in Park Lane, premises now owned by Lonrho. I reported that the sign had caused "a certain furore". Lonrho's solicitors say the company "has been congratulated, in writing and otherwise, on the way in

which the sign had brightened up the premises."

I am pleased to hear it: what offends some people usually delights others. But it is bad news about the Derby. Competition among would-be sponsors is generally a good thing.

Travel guide to an investor's paradise

In London shares have surged impressively to new peaks, yet the sophisticated and alert investor could have had an even more lucrative run in some of the world's smaller stock markets. That at least is a theory supported by the latest statistical exercise by stockbrokers Wood, Mackenzie. Their international market survey shows that, up to December 23 certainly, Mexico, famed for oil, tequila and sovereign debt, was the place to be. After last year's traumatic experience, when Mexico teetered on the verge of bankruptcy and both peso and stock market collapsed, resurgence has been dramatic. The fledgling Mexican stock market outperformed the rest with a staggering rise of 285.74 per cent.

Two other small markets - Norway (135.82 per cent) and Denmark (107.25 per cent) - also achieved three figure rises; other tiddlers to perform in style include Sweden, Ireland, Singapore and the Netherlands. In most of them a few stocks, excited by the increasing international awareness of US investors, account for much of the upswing. Australia, under a new Labour Government, also did well.

Overall the 21 stock markets in the Wood, Mackenzie survey advanced 36.88 per cent. Our own market, despite its undoubted strength, gained only 28.58 per cent. Wall Street, the most important stock market in anybody's language - accounting for no less than 56.4 per cent of the world index - scored 36.67 per cent.

The next biggest market, Japan, is 16.7 per cent of the index. It advanced 37.88 per cent. Britain (7.4 per cent) is the third largest, followed by Canada (4.5 per cent) and Germany (3.1 per cent). To put the rest into perspective, Norway accounts for a mere 0.2 per cent.

The sophisticated investor, Wood, Mackenzie calculates would have been highly active in the US in the first half of the year and then switched his attention to Japan which enjoyed a late run. The rampant US dollar could however have created a few minor problems. In dollar terms Hongkong suffered a 2.1 per cent setback in sterling sums it was up 10.5 per cent. Italy and Austria also fell in dollar terms.

In 1982, helped by a surge of buying late in the year, world markets recorded a gain of 31.7 per cent. In 1981 they were in retreat. What of 1984? The Wood, Mackenzie team is prepared to stick out its collective neck, suggesting a gain between 5 per cent and 10 per cent. Japan, of the five leaders, will be the best performer, helped by favourable currency movements. Britain will be positive, Germany little changed and the US and Canada possibly lower. The brokers think that the more exciting action will occur in the first half of the year. Sell in May... and go away.

The pound bobbed above \$1.45 yesterday for the first time in three weeks, given a gentle push from higher spot oil prices, as the dollar weakened on fading expectations of a rise in American interest rates.

Sterling closed in London at \$1.4485, which was 1.35 cents up on the day. Small gains against Continental currencies and the yen boosted its trade-weighted index by 0.3 to 82.8 per cent of its 1975 level.

The Bank of England took advantage of the shifting sentiment on interest rates to maintain the momentum of the Government's funding programme by issuing £600m of government stock. Dealings will start on Tuesday for traditional tranches of two low-coupon

conventional stocks, designed to appeal to high taxpayers.

The £100m of 3 per cent Treasury 1986 and £200m of 3 per cent Treasury 1987 are to replace exhausted short-dated low coupon stocks.

In addition, £300m of 2 per cent index-linked Treasury 1990 will be offered for tender next Thursday for dealing the following day.

On very quiet trading, government stocks eased slightly, with long-dated gilts down about £0.25 from Wednesday.

Foreign exchange markets also saw little business, with most operators concerned simply to square their books at the end of the year.

But there are signs that when

trading starts in earnest after the New Year the dollar may be due for a fall. The latest figures on economic growth, which suggest that the US recovery is slowing, coupled with numerous forecasts from among others, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, predicting further deceleration during the coming year, have dampened fears that the Federal Reserve Board will move to tighten credit policy to keep the lid on inflation.

These hopes were given a further boost yesterday by the announcement of a fall in the US leading indicators which signal the course of economic recovery some months ahead.

The dollar fell 1.50 pence to DM2.7280 as Euro-dollar deposit rates eased.

Capel-Cure Myers, the stock-broking firm, is predicting growth of 2 per cent next year after 2.8 per cent this year, lower than the Treasury's 3 per cent for 1984.

Lower inflation will increase real incomes, reduce savings further and permit lower interest rates, the firm says.

Mr Philip Wilkinson, chief executive of National Westminster Bank, said yesterday that he was reasonably confident the optimum in activity would continue in 1984 with only modest inflation, and predicted lower interest rates next year.

The team of economists, which uses the Treasury's model of the economy, expects growth next year to be close to the Chancellor's prediction of 3 per cent.

Consortium buys Acrow subsidiary

By Jeremy Warner

A Manchester manufacturer of pressure vessels for the oil industry, whose closure was announced in September, is being bought back from the dead by a consortium led by Mr Nat Puri, an Indian-born entrepreneur.

Acrow, the troubled heavy engineering group, closed the consistently loss-making Adamson and Hatchett, which once employed nearly 400 people, part of its survival strategy. The company's assets were put up for sale in the process.

Mr Puri quickly put together a consortium, consisting of his own Nottingham group of companies, Melton Medes, a business associate and a merchant bank. The consortium is believed to be paying between £1m and £1.5m for the company and hopes eventually to re-employ more than 100 people.

Adamson, whose main customers are oil companies in Britain, Norway and the Middle East, lost £1m in 1983 and £1.2m the year before.

Mr Puri said: "It is basically a good business and I think we can do a lot better with it than Acrow did. We will certainly not be making losses."

The current senior management at Adamson and Hatchett, headed by the managing director, Mr Stanley Wilce, will be put in with a financial participation in the future of the business.

Mr Puri, aged 44, came to Britain from India 17 years ago and has spent most of his time working for S. G. Skerritt, a Midlands firm of building contractors.

He resigned on a matter of principle in 1975 but was able to return in triumph at the beginning of this year when he added Skerritt to his burgeoning business empire. Further companies will be added to the group soon, Mr Puri said.

The book loss Acrow is taking by selling off Adamson was taken into account in recent half-year figures which showed losses of nearly £4m. Acrow intends to dispatch a circular to shareholders on the sale.

Norway follows UK in pegging oil price

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain's pre-Christmas decision to leave North Sea oil prices unchanged in the face of customer pressure for a cut has been vindicated by the surge on the world oil spot market and by Norway's decision to announce next Monday that it is leaving its prices unchanged.

North Sea oil is now trading on the spot market at \$29.50 a barrel, still 50 cents below its official price but 60 cents up on last Friday's closing price.

The hardening of prices - largely due to increased demand from the United States where heating oil deliveries are accelerating because of the severe winter - will also help the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to maintain its agreement on prices and production.

The British National Oil Corporation which trades North Sea oil on the world markets on behalf of the Government took its decision to hold its prices steady four days before Opec barrels a day from the United States companies operating in the North Sea who do not have access to refineries and have to sell the crude on the open market.

In turn those companies in the North Sea, Shell, Esso and BP, who can convert crude for the product market in Europe, pressed for prices to be held.

North Sea production peaked in November at 2.5 million barrels a day from the British sector and 770,000 barrels a day from the Norwegian sector. A year ago the figures were 2.1 million for Britain and 500,000 for Norway. Opec production



Señor Bertiz Venezuela losing foreign earnings

has now moved to between 18.3 million and 18.9 million barrels a day.

At least one Opec member, Venezuela, is to call for an early meeting to review the organization's quota agreement which it endorsed in Geneva four weeks ago.

Venezuela argues that while it has stuck firmly to its agreed quota its export earnings from oil have fallen while its domestic market for oil has become more buoyant. Venezuela hopes to persuade Opec to change the basis for quotas from "output" to "exports".

Señor Calderon Bertiz, the former Venezuelan oil minister who now runs the state-owned oil company, said yesterday that his country had suffered a reduction of \$1.9bn (£1.325bn) in foreign earnings by strictly adhering to the Opec price and quota agreement.

He said that 1983 had been a difficult year for the Venezuelan oil industry and 1984 "will be more of the same."

Commercial Union in French deal

By Andrew Cornallie

Commercial Union Assurance, one of Britain's largest composite insurers, yesterday announced a big expansion of its activities in France. It is taking over, in a £19.4m deal, L'Epargne de France, a French life and savings company.

The news helped boost the Commercial Union share price by 5p to 187p.

The company is still waiting for formal approval for the deal from the French regulatory authorities, but hopes to conclude the acquisition before May 31.

L'Epargne, which is based in Paris, made pretax profits of £2.5m last year on premium income of £25m.

The takeover will more than double Commercial Union's business in France. The group's existing activities are mainly in the general insurance field and produced a premium income of about £15m last year.

Mr Cecil Harris, chief executive of Commercial Union, said that the acquisition would enable the group to provide a full range of life and non-life products in France.

Commercial Union plans to expand its French operations and particularly the L'Epargne life business, which already employs 60 sales agents and 100 head office staff. But further expansion will be delayed until approval of the takeover is agreed by the French authorities.

Commercial Union believes that the expansion in France was necessary to maintain a presence in one of Europe's largest insurance markets.

Australian record

Australian shares reached a record yesterday. The main market index rose by 4.2 points to 769.9 points, spurred on by the industrial index which for the first time passed the 1,000 points mark.

No particular section was strong, but a number of individual shares - such as Amatil, among food and drinks - pushed ahead.

Most of the US dollar inflow, which has been such a feature of Australian markets this year, was concentrated in oil and gas shares.

The Tintabarra No.1 well, which is being drilled in the south west corner of Queensland by a consortium, attracted interest. Harogren, the consortium leader, was a firm and Weeks Australia, which has an interest, gained ground.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 772.5 down 3.2
FT All Shares: 468.99 down 1.2
Burgalins: 14.487
Datsabrain USM Leaders Index: 96.12 up 0.2
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1,266.06 up 2.85
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index Closed
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 877.15 up 3.0
Amsterdam: 161.8 up 0.6
Sydney: AO Index: 759.9 up 4.6
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1041.7 down 2.3
Brussels: General Index: 136.77 unchanged
Paris: CAC Index: 158.5 up 1.0
Zurich: SKA General: 316.90 unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling: \$1.4485 up 1.35cents
DM: 82.8 up 0.3
DM: 3.9550 up 0.0050
FF: 12.09 up 0.01
Yen: 336.50 up 1.50
Dollar: Index: 129.5 down 0.6
DM: 2.7280 down 0.0150
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling: \$1.4475
Dollar: DM 2.7285
INTERNATIONAL
ECU: 5.70561
SDR: 7.26241

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am: \$379.00 pm: \$384.40
spot: \$381.75-382.50 (\$263.75-264.25)
New York (close): \$382.25
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$393.50-395 (\$272-273)
Sovereigns (new):
\$89.50-90.50 (\$261.75-262.50)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eagle Star share plan supported

Shareholders of Eagle Star, the subject of competing takeover bids from Alliance Versicherungs and BAT Industries, yesterday agreed a scheme to approve a reorganization of Eagle's capital in the event of a takeover.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle, said the reorganization was necessary to reduce the costs of any successful takeover offer.

He declined to comment on the likely outcome of the takeover bid before today's 4.30pm deadline for final bidding.

● A multi-million-pound electronics plant, which will create 250 jobs in 18 months and eventually lead to nearly 450 jobs, is to be built on a 16-acre site at Irvine in Ayrshire. The announcement follows discussions between SCI Systems, of Alabama, and the Scottish jobs creation bureau.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9
3 month interbank 9½-9¾
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½-9¾
3 month DM 6¼-6½
3 month Fr 13¼-13½
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 10½
Treasury long bond 10¼-10½
ECB: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme 19
Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

WALL STREET

Shares hold on to gains

New York (AP - Dow Jones). - Share prices were maintaining small gains in moderate trading yesterday with the Dow Jones Industrial Average 2.85 points up at 1266.06.

The Transportation Index was just below a three-point advance, while the utilities index had fallen by nearly a point.

Advances were about 7-to-6 ahead of declines and volume was more than 40 million shares.

Texas Utilities was down 2.1-2 to 23.1. Public Service of Indiana, off 1.4, at 11.3-8 and Long Island Lighting Co., down 1.4 to 10.

Directors' loyalty strained

By Our Financial Staff

The Government was urged yesterday by one of its most ardent supporters, the Institute of Directors, to keep its election promises over taxation and public spending.

Mr Walter Goldsmith, director-general of the institute, said in a New Year message in *The Director* magazine: "Our loyalty is becoming strained. Industry has kept its side of the bargain during the difficult years of 1980-83. It is time the Government did the same."

Mr Goldsmith, whose organization has backed Mrs Thatcher more than the Confederation of British Industry and has not questioned the Government's view that the recovery from recession might falter, added: "Only six months

since the election, many businessmen must find themselves wondering: has the Government already forgotten the most crucial of its election promises or has it chosen to ignore them?"

He added: "It would be gravely disappointing if all the real progress that industry and commerce has made over the last four years to rationalize staff numbers, eliminate inefficiency and improve productivity were to be thrown away because of the Government's inability to cut spending."

"The rhetoric of their manifesto has not yet been translated into bold, decisive action."

He claimed that, when higher national insurance is taken into account, taxation has actually increased.

Further austerity measures on the way

Nigerian budget deficit 'doubled'

By John Lawrence

Nigeria's economy is in a critical state, President Shehu Shagari said yesterday, with the 1983 budget deficit likely to be almost twice official predictions.

With the deficit at 6.2 billion naira (£2.6 billion) - and with next year's estimated government revenues of 6.63 billion naira expected to be outstripped by recurrent and capital expenditure by 3.2 billion naira - the country is faced with a further drastic round of austerity measures.

The impact of these measures on British suppliers, which have traditionally held almost a fifth of the import market, will be considerable. Nigeria was a booming market for Britain in 1981, before the oil slump, with sales worth £1.5 billion.

This year, British exports will be half that level, with a further contraction inevitable in 1984. It is expected that the 10 billion

naira import bill will be cut to 7 billion.

The cut in Nigeria's oil production and the fall in crude prices have resulted in "a colossal loss of revenue which has necessitated a thorough appraisal of plans for the country's economic development", according to the President when he presented the National Assembly with what he called a "re-dedication budget".

The austerity measures will clearly have to have a much swifter impact than has been achieved by other measures this year - principally aimed at cutting imports - if Nigeria is to meet the conditions of the International Monetary Fund for a three-year \$2 billion loan.

Nigerians have got used to good living and have resorted to massive smuggling to avoid import bans on 230 items.



Shagari: colossal loss of revenue

reduction in purchases from abroad and a curtailment of foreign exchange outflows.

Full details of the \$13 billion budget will be released next week.

● Syndicated international bank lending dropped by nearly a fifth in 1983 as banks tried to contain their exposure to risk in the wake of the global debt crisis. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said yesterday.

Gross new borrowing through bond issues and syndication of international medium term credits totalled \$137.9 billion in 1983, down 18.5 per cent from \$169.3 billion in 1982.

The biggest fall was in lending to non-oil developing countries. Their total borrowing fell from \$34.3 billion in 1982 to \$25.5 billion in 1983, more than half of which was longer term loans as part of debt rescheduling agreement.

Radio Clyde goes for USM debut

By Jonathan Clare

Radio Clyde, Glasgow's award-winning commercial radio station, is to receive a listing on the Unlisted Securities Market in about six weeks which will probably value the company at more than £3m.

The station, which claims more listeners for some programmes in its franchise area than the BBC and Radio Luxembourg combined, will be the first company brought to the market by First Northern, the Edinburgh corporate finance house.

Only 5 per cent of the voting shares will be placed. The top 12 of the 75 shareholders are expected to chip in to make the shares available.

Radio Clyde is not obtaining a quotation to raise capital - it has just raised £750,000 with a rights issue.

Big shareholders include Scottish Television, Clydesdale Bank and Scottish Express Newspapers.

Last year profits increased from £76,000 to £493,000, helped by a big improvement in the Clyde Electronics subsidiary.

Hong Kong Land to sell £18m office

By Our Financial Staff

Hong Kong Land, the colony's largest property company, has announced another big sale of assets to help reduce its heavy debt burden.

It is selling Macquarie House, an office building with 105,000 square feet of space at Sydney, Australia, for A\$30m (£18.8m) to a fund run by Westpac Banking Corporation.

Mr Davis said yesterday the latest sale was at an opportune time. It is the company's second large property disposal since it announced a surprise six-month loss of £10m in September and appointed Mr David Davis as chief operating officer.

Mr Davis said yesterday the latest sale was at an opportune time for Hong Kong Land. But he stressed there was no question of selling further properties in Australia, such as Franklin Stores in Sydney, or another office building.

The company announced this month that it had arranged a seven-year HK\$2.5 billion (£220m) standby credit facility from a group of banks led by the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The facility was secured on the company's big office development now under construction in the colony, Exchange Square.

Two months ago, Hong Kong Land sold an office building in Honolulu, Hawaii, for US\$59.6m (£41m) and said more sales would follow.

Hong Kong Land ran into difficulties when uncertainty about the colony's future caused the Hongkong dollar to collapse, which in turn sent the cost of servicing the group's substantial floating rate borrowing soaring.

Meanwhile, the disposal of the assets of another Hongkong property group, the now defunct Currian, continues. The liquidator has sold the Singapore insurance business of the Currian subsidiary, China Underwriters Life and General Assurance, to a company jointly owned by the Singapore government and Chubb Corporation of the US.

A more favourable offer had been received from Sentry Assurance International, which has already acquired much of the China Underwriters' business. But it had to be turned down because the Singapore government would not license the company to undertake insurance business.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange

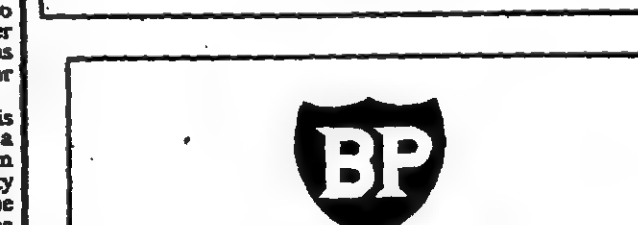
Allied Textile Companies Public Limited Company

(Registered in England, Number #1338)

ISSUE OF £1,030,486 NOMINAL OF 10 PER CENT, CONVERTIBLE SUBORDINATED UNSECURED LOAN STOCK 1993 BY WAY OF SCRP ISSUE

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted the 10 per cent, Convertible Subordinated Unsecured Loan Stock 1993 to the Official List. Particulars of this stock are available in the Excel Statistical Service and may also be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including January 13th, 1984 from:

L. Messel & Co.,
P.O. Box No. 521,
Winchester House,
100 Old Broad Street,
London EC2P 2HX



The British Petroleum Company p.l.c. Ordinary Shares of 25p each

Offer for Sale by Tender by the Bank of England on behalf of H.M. Government

Final Instalment Due 11th January 1984

The Bank of England wishes to remind holders of Letters of Acceptance that the final instalment of £2.35 per Share MUST BE PAID BY 3.00 P.M. ON 11TH JANUARY 1984. Cheques for the amounts due, made payable to the Bank of England and crossed "Not Negotiable - BP Shares" must be forwarded, with the LETTERS OF ACCEPTANCE, TO THE APPROPRIATE RECEIVING BANKER WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS APPEARS IN THE BOX ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF PAGE 1 OF LETTERS OF ACCEPTANCE.

Registration of Renunciation
The attention of holders of renounced Letters of Acceptance, i.e., those with Form X completed or marked "Original duly renounced", is drawn to instruction 5 on page 3 of the Letter.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

New Wessex fund launched

BIC has already warned the Government that because of the pressure on the resources of the big company sponsors it is bound to get more difficult in setting up local enterprise agencies. As well as attracting more companies to the cause, funding from the public sector, as through urban renewal money, will have to be increased, says BIC. The public sector accounts for about a quarter of funding at present.

[illegible]

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
CCF	9%
Citibank Savings	11.04%
Consolidated	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† 7 day deposits on basis of 250,000, above 250,000 and over, 7%.

Source: Bank of England

Legal

Appointments

are featured every

TUESDAY

New chairman for consumers' council

Electricity Consumers' Council: Mr J. V. Hatch is to be chairman for 1984. Midlands Electricity Consumer Council: Mr L. V. Pike has been re-appointed chairman. National Gas Consumers' Council: Miss S. P. Black has been re-appointed chairman. Gas Consumers' Northern Council: Mrs J. H. Stephenson has been appointed chairman. Southern Gas Consumers' Council: Mr B. R. Wilcox has been appointed chairman. HB Electronics: Mr Lawrence Gordon Hazzard has become non-executive chairman. P&O Ferries: Mr Eric Turner, general manager of P&O Ferries Scottish, has been appointed a director. Coates Bros: Mr D. J. Youngman, group managing director, becomes chairman of Mr Edward Clowes, who has retired as chairman but remains a non-executive director.

APPOINTMENTS

Olympus Optical Co (UK): Mr John McDowell, previously general manager marketing, has been appointed marketing director. Mr John Bailey, general manager finance, becomes finance director. Mr Tony Ransley, general manager administration, becomes administration director. Wansley: Lord Erskine of Rerrick has joined the board. Galton Travel: Mr Hugh Thomas has been appointed group managing director. Bryant Properties: Mr Paul Gillard has become managing director. Target Life Assurance: Mr David Montague becomes chairman in place of Mr Edward Clowes, who has retired as chairman but remains a non-executive director.

Mellie can make fine start to chasing career

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Two features of the current jumping season have been the dominance of the Michael Dickinson and Fred Winter stables and the emergence of an encouraging number of promising recruits to the steeple-chasing ranks.

Over two miles and two miles and a half the names of Voice of Progress, Letch, Gambir, Visconti and Aces Wild spring readily to mind, ever three those of Foy's Nerve, A Kinsman and Duke of Milan.

But after the Elcot Park Novices Steeplechase has been run at Newbury today it is quite possible that another will have to be added to the list, that of Mellie, who was good enough to win the Grade II Rendisham Hurdle over three miles at Kempton last season, beating in the process layers of the calibre of Goldspun, Mayotte, Here's Why and Crispin Embury.

Against that impressive backdrop Mellie should only have to jump a clear round this afternoon to have today's race at her mercy because in terms of proven ability today's opponents do not compare with those that she has already beaten.

But Mellie still has to show that she is as good at steeple-chasing as she was at hurdling and as anyone intimately involved in the game will tell you the chasm that divides the two worlds is not bridged easily.

Mellie's trainer, Robin Blakey, thinks sufficiently highly of his mare to have declared her against Duke of Milan and A Kinsman at Kempton Park on Tuesday. But he decided to pull her out at the last minute



A crash-landing for Chuck's Song and his jockey, Carl Gray, in the Heathfield Hurdle, won by Paddy Boro, at Plumpton (Photograph: Chris Cole).

Francome unscathed in four-horse pile up

The champion jockey John Francome, who rode his 59th winner on the dead-heat Greatest Hits at Plumpton yesterday, was one of four riders who had lucky escapes in a four-horse pile up in the Ladbrokes Handicap Hurdle, when Beau (Ray Goldstein) slipped on the penultimate bend and came down Volkanin (Francome), Only George (Buck Peasey) and Summer Cove (Jimmy Aherbert).

Francome walked off and said: "It was a crash-landing, after Beau went down." Goldstein was brought back in the course ambulance but the senior Jockey Club medical officer, Dr Michael Allen, reported: "Goldstein was only

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To Holders Of

International Standard Electric Corporation

8 1/4% Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to Section 3.03 of the Indenture dated as of February 1, 1971 between International Standard Electric Corporation and Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, Trustee, ("the Indenture"), \$2,250,000 principal amount of International Standard Electric Corporation 8 1/4% Sinking Fund Debentures due 1986 ("the Debentures") have been called for redemption on February 1, 1984 (the "Redemption Date") through the operation of the Sinking Fund at 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with interest thereon at the rate of 8 1/4% per annum to the Redemption Date. Pursuant to Section 3.03 of the Indenture, the Trustee has selected for redemption on February 1, 1984 the following Debentures, to wit:

\$1,000 COUPON DEBENTURES, EACH BEARING THE PREFIX LETTER "M"

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Letter from Berlin

Last year Sir John Mills recreated the role on the stage

College, Brecon.
Marsden is married to the actress Polly Henningway.

In a new year message to the Tory Reform Group, of which he is president, Mr Walker indicated that the internal debate among senior Conservatives will continue with equal vigour next year when he emphasized the need for poli-

He included among his wishes for 1984 "that there will be an expansion in world trade and a performance by Britain better than that of our competitors that will bring real hope to

the unemployed and that 1984 will be the year in which unemployment figures begin to decline substantially".

He also wanted the Government to achieve a "well-coordinated and more successful" programme to revitalize the inner cities and to meet the problems of deprivation and despair that still existed in the worst areas.

Mr Walker called on the Western world to create a new relationship with the potentially expanding economies of the future.

The night begins early on both sides of Friedrichstrasse, the once-great street that is now divided by the Wall. In a

is denser (F-6, Sport filter, Bulgarian tobacco), the juke box is broken and the talk is of Republic.

Roger Boyes

Spain	s	11	52	Karachi	s	20	88
San Andres	f	28	82	Los Palmas	s	22	72
				Lisbon	s	12	54
Te	s	23	73	Locarno	s	5	41
Waco	s	21	70	L. Angeles	s	16	81
Wago	sn	-8	18	London	tg	3	37
Wre	c	9	48	Madrid	s	11	52

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